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THURSDAY, JUNE 20TH, 2013

RHOOSE

A local village with big city facilities - see pages 19-21

COWBRIDGE

SEE FEATURE PAGES 24-26



Romilly School have been helping their local area by litter picking- SEE PAGE 8 FOR FULL STORY.

'The Friends of High Street' aims to boost popular shopping area

by TIM CHAPMAN

A new organisation is to be formed in Barry called 'The Friends of High Street', which will encourage volunteers to help to stage community events.

Traders hope that people will attend a public meeting, at a date to be arranged, to find out how they can help.

Over many years High Street traders have staged numerous events and competitions for the community, but have told The GEM that it has become more and more difficult for them to devote time to organising special community days and run businesses at the same time.

The idea is that a sub-committee of enthusiastic volunteers will be formed.

Bob Armstrong, the acting chairman of High Street Traders' Association, told The GEM: "We're hoping that there will be some retired professional people - possibly with busi-

ness experience - who might have the right skills and would like to help.

"We hope volunteers might be able to devote a day or a couple of hours a month, to help to organise events."

Bob pointed out that 'community involvement' was one of the suggestions of the Mary Portas review into how town centre shopping areas could be strengthened.

Traditionally, the High

Street calendar includes events at Christmas, Easter and during the summer. Traders hope to maintain that run of 'red letter' days.

Bob added: "One idea that we are looking at is holding a summer carnival - not floats, but more a walking parade along High Street, but with other entertainments and activities featured too."

If you feel that you can help and would like to get involved please contact Helen at MJM Computers on 01446 701702 or Bob at Dr Bob's Balloons on 01446 730780.

BAIL CONDITION: 'STAY OUT OF YOUR GARDEN SHED'

DINAS POWYS MAN'S £20,000 CANNABIS CROP

POLICE who could smell the aroma of cannabis coming from a large garden shed in Dinas Powys searched it, and found plants of the drug growing inside with a possible yield worth up to £20,000, writes AJ SICLUNA

The man responsible, 53-year-old Simon Redclift, was said at Cardiff Crown

Court to have several previous convictions for growing cannabis plants in the same shed.

Redclift, of St Ivor Place, admitted producing cannabis and possessing cannabis with intent.

Prosecutor Tony Trigg said that on August 23, police officers went to Redclift's home, and discovered a strong smell of cannabis in the garden, which grew even stronger when they opened a

shed door.

Inside, they found 32 immature plants, and five large plants. In a living room in the house was more cannabis.

Mr Trigg said Redclift became agitated, said he suffered from anxiety and used the drug for "medicinal purposes".

Some plants were being grown for friends, he said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

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10:00am	Metafit		Kettlercise		Circuit TRX
12:30pm			Fitclub		
13:00	Body Blast	Metafit	Zumba	Circuit TRX	Bokwa
17:30			Fitclub adults & Kids		
18:15	Metafit	Fitclub	Boxercise	Fitclub	Metafit
			Pole Dancing 8pm til 7pm - beginners		
19:15	Fitclub	Street fit	Fitclub	Boxercise	
			Pole Dancing 7 til 8pm - Intermediate		

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PRISTINE ROAD MUDDIED OVER

Congratulations and commendations! Here in Aberystwyth Crescent, Barry, a few weeks ago, we had a marvellous road surface laid by contractors working for the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

It looked clean, pristine and was a vast improvement on the previous surface, churned up by years of traffic dropping-off and picking-up pupils at High Street and Ysgol St Baruc Schools.

But, oh no, along has come Dwr Cymru – Welsh Water! Directly opposite my house and the entrance to Ysgol St Baruc the crescent has

been dug up and relaid with a patch approximately 4ft x 4ft ... and a huge area of mud not washed away.

Maybe Welsh Water are conserving all their resources? It won't work. I'm going to wash away the dirt myself.

Another example of municipal damage to be placed alongside the vandalism of 'tree trimming' and two tree removals. We were promised replacements three years ago. I have the correspondence; they have not yet arrived. I'm not holding my breath – merely my pen.

Christopher Short, Barry

Praise for Welsh Water

WITH reference to the report about the burst water main near the Barry Memorial Hall, I should like to write a few words in praise of Welsh Water.

Having telephoned them to ask what was wrong, I received an extremely courteous answer and explanation,

and was directed to their website, which was very helpful.

They sent me an apology via a text message, and later that evening, I received a telephone call from them to ask if all was well, and a further apology. Thank you Welsh Water, your customer care is second to none.

Sylvia Hole, Barry.

Airport puts Cardiff on map

ITHINK it is a great pity people are going to Bristol when we have our very own airport.

Now it has been taken over, I sincerely hope they will make a go of it.

In doing so, it should help to put Cardiff back on the map.
Mrs Heveron, Rhoose.

JAZZ NIGHT FOR TY HAPUS

A JAZZ and curry night is being held at Quarter Penny Cafe, Cowbridge, on Friday, June 28 at 7pm.

Tickets are available from the Quarter Penny Cafe – buy them quick, they are selling fast! The event is being organised by Cowbridge Comprehensive School's interact team in order to raise money for Ty Hapus.

It promises to be a fantastic evening for all ages. JJ

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Readers' Letters

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We will (in certain circumstances) protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, DON JOHN, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7E OR email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

Welfare proposals are not even cost effective

THE standard responses to criticism of the coalition government's demolition of the welfare state have been trotted out again, by Alex Williams of Bridgend and Vale MP Alun Cairns.

The argument that the bedroom tax is fair,

'LIMITED PUBLIC INTEREST IN CONSULTATIONS'

THE Vale Council's Corporate Plan refers to 'a new kind of relationship and co-operation between citizens and local government'.

On Monday, the cabinet considered comments on their proposed improvement objectives.

My submission related to their aim to improve citizen engagement and suggested the council's actions needed to demonstrate that the process is transparent

and informative; that they are listening; they are more receptive to criticism; the good points made by people, and what has changed following consultation.

Cabinet did make a change by amending the word 'tool' to 'mechanism'.

Unfortunately, I was the only member of the public that commented. The report made the point that there is very limited public interest in policy consultations.

I wonder why?
Dennis Harkus, FocusBARRY member.

Future of the Airport

WITH reference to the letter concerning Cardiff Airport, I have emailed my views and comments on 'What do you want from us?' (GEM, April 24) to www.tbicardiffairport.com/en/survey. I only hope they pay attention to the electorate.

On reading Gordon Wilkie's excellent letter on June 6, I wondered if

Bus services slashed, cut and discontinued.... brilliant!
Christine Evans, Cwmbran.

Girls' grammar school plans a reunion

IAM organising a reunion for past students and staff to celebrate the centenary of the opening of the Barry Girls' County Grammar School.

It will be at the Memorial Hall, Barry on Wednesday, September 11, 2013 from 1pm to 5pm.

It is to be a ticketed event and if anyone from the school is interested in attending the reunion then please email centenaryreunion13@hotmail.co.uk or ring 01446 734 970 for details of how to apply for tickets – at a cost of £3.

An afternoon tea at an extra cost of £6 is also available if pre-booked. We already have had a lot of interest from as far back as 1930 entrants up to the last intake, there are still many places left so early replies would be advisable. The final date for ticket applications is August 10.

Monika Jones, Barry

because it frees up family homes for people living in overcrowded conditions, would have some credibility but for the fact that there are very few one bedroom properties available.

This means that tenants will have no alternative but to move into the private rented sector, where rents are higher and housing benefit goes into the pockets of private landlords, rather than housing associations.

In the interim, they will be housed in expensive temporary accommodation for the homeless, which could be some distance from schools, GPs and support networks. How is this cost effective?

Even the government's own advisor, Lord Freud, is sceptical; he has admitted that the bedroom tax will only save money if social housing tenants stay put, an option that is just not available to most of them.

Last minute exemptions were applied grudgingly, after bad publicity about the impact on foster carers, disabled children and Armed Forces personnel, among others.

Instead of clear regulations clarifying who should be protected, the government has provided local authorities with a woefully inadequate fund and told them to choose who is most deserving of extra support, which is time limited and gives no long term security.

Why didn't the government listen to housing professionals like Shelter, who advised reducing housing benefit only where a smaller alternative property is available, and the tenant refuses to move without good reason?

The mentally unwell, physically disabled, terminally ill, socially excluded, and learning disabled did not cause the financial crisis, but they are paying the cost.

S K Bowyer, Barry, Labour party member.

'All parties are to blame...'

MAY I be allowed to reply to the letter from Alex Williams (GEM letters, June 13) regarding welfare reforms and, mostly, the bedroom tax.

Mr Williams states that 250,000 families live in the UK, in overcrowded accommodation, plus many more on local authority housing lists.

But pardon me, whose fault is that – the people's? No, it is successive Governments' fault for not building houses; also the influx of immigrants has added to all these figures.

Mr Williams also makes a big play about the number of people on housing benefits who are living in accommodation too big for their needs.

Those people, who probably moved into their three-bedroom homes some 30 or 40 years ago, have brought up children, then see them grow up, get married and leave the family

home, thus leaving spare accommodation and are now being penalised for having spare rooms.

What a load of absolute twaddle! I wish politicians would get into the world we live in; they all live in cloud cuckoo land. There are no affordable bungalows and flats to move into.

The letter writer goes on to explain about the DLA, which has been taken away from people. He states it is an outdated and flawed system with most people getting the benefit without systematic checks being carried out. Tell that to my grandson, who has learning difficulties, and has had his money stopped!

How many MPs from all parties, and also the House of Lords are living in rented accommodation, being paid for by us the taxpayer, and have spare rooms not being used?

Have they lost any money? I bet not.
DJ Radford Barry

Appeal for iconic Welsh poetry posters

IAM appealing to anyone who still has poetry posters produced by the former Welsh Arts Council in the 1980s to contact me.

The posters, which featured a variety of poems in Welsh and English, were on sale throughout Wales. Poets whose work was used on the posters included Dylan Thomas, whose poem 'Fern Hill' and the popular 'Child's Christmas in Wales' were featured.

Other poets who were headlined included Idris Davies, Waldo Williams and Dannie Abse.

I have written to the Arts Council for Wales to urge them to re-issue these posters as part of the celebrations to mark the centenary of the birth of Dylan Thomas next

year. The art work in these posters was iconic and the poetry itself is timeless so I see no reason why the posters cannot be reprinted and made available to a new generation.

The Arts Council has promised to search through its archives to uncover these artistic gems, but it would be very useful if I could have information from people who own some of the remaining posters about who issued them and who holds the copyright.

Please contact me at Ty Hywel, National Assembly for Wales, Cardiff Bay, Cardiff CF99 1NA or email suzu.davies@wales.gov.uk.

Suzu Davies, Welsh Conservative Regional AM for South Wales West.

EARLY WELSH CHORAL MUSIC

WE wish to point out an error in your newspaper of Thursday, June 13.

In an article entitled 'Welsh Camerata', it was stated that they are "Wales' only specialist early music choir".

This is clearly not the case, as we also specialise in early music, and have been performing regularly for more than 30 years.

We are the St Donats Chamber Choir, and we meet every Sunday at 7.30pm at Ewenny Priory Church. We welcome anyone interested in singing this type of 'a cappella' music.

Peter Coombs Ogmere-by-Sea

Group's charity exhibition

SULLY Painting Group are holding their annual art exhibition in the Jubilee Hall, off Smithies Avenue, Sully, on Friday, June 28, from 6pm – 9pm and Saturday June 29, 10am – 6pm.

There will be more than 200 paintings for sale and the Exhibition is supporting two local charities, as 20 per cent of the purchase price of all pictures will be donated to Ty Hafan Children's Hospice and the Teenage Cancer Trust. Income from raffles and refreshments, including home made cakes, goes to charity.

PH

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL JUNE 27)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time		Time	
	AM	M	PM	M
20 Thur	03.41	8.4	16.26	8.6
21 Fri	04.52	8.8	17.25	9.1
22 Sat	05.51	9.3	18.18	9.6
23 Sun	06.49	9.7	19.13	10.1
24 Mon	07.39	10.1	20.05	10.3
25 Tues	08.31	10.2	20.55	10.4
26 Wed	09.19	10.1	21.44	10.3
27 Thur	10.07	9.8	22.22	9.9

While THE GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

CARDIFF CROWN COURT ROUND-UP by AJ SICLUNA

Two years' jail for Barry burglar

A BURGLAR who stole a laptop computer and a docking station told the police he also intended to take a large television, but it wouldn't fit into his holdall.

At Cardiff Crown Court, Craig Bennett (31) of Port Road, Barry, was jailed for two years.

Judge Daniel Williams told Bennett: "You were part of a team, and you made full admissions. As a result of your crime, the occupier is insecure in his own home."

Bennett had been convicted by Cardiff Magistrates of a charge of burglary, and had been

committed to the Crown Court for sentence.

Prosecutor Rhys Evans said he carried out the burglary on April 22 at the Ferry Lane, Penarth, home of Neil Tompkins.

In addition to the theft, damage of £360 was caused.

Police later went to an address in Penarth and recovered the stolen property. Bennett immediately said: "I did it, no-one else was involved."

He said he had used a tool to prise open a window, and intended to take an expensive television, but it wouldn't fit into his holdall.

Bennett, the court heard, had convictions for 21 offences, 14 for dishonesty.

His solicitor, Thomas Trove, said: "He expresses his full regret. Fortunately, property was recovered. One other individual was present, but he didn't play a major role."

"Bennett was used by others, and has been addicted to heroin," he said.

DRUG HAUL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The court heard he had convictions for 30 offences, including possessing cannabis with intent to supply, and for growing it at his home and cultivating cannabis in the shed.

Hywel Hughes, for Redcliff, said: "There were full admissions when he was apprehended. With his friends, there was a co-operative system in operation involving plants."

He said it was not possible to establish the true amount of the yield, and Redcliff was not involved for financial advantage.

"He has used cannabis for a number of years, and in the past the police raided his property. The authorities knew he smoked and grew cannabis. He no longer does, and the shed now has a wholly different use."

He said it was a large

structure and had been used as living accommodation.

"As far as the sentence is concerned, we have reached the end of the road. He has had previous opportunities," said Mr Hughes.

Life in prison would not be easy for him or the authorities, as he has health issues.

Judge David Wynn Morgan said: "This shed was constructed and adapted for the purpose of growing cannabis."

He adjourned sentence for consideration to be given to having the shed demolished, and a restraining order being made to prevent the defendant growing the drug.

The judge said he was not impressed with Redcliff's attitude to the courts in respect of taking cannabis.

He remanded him on bail, with a condition that he does not go into the shed.

Mayor's charity coffee morning

THE Mayor of Barry, Coun Claire Curtis, will be hosting a coffee morning on Saturday, June 29 in the Mayor's Parlour, Barry Town Council, 7 Gladstone Road, Barry from 10.30am-12noon in aid of the charities the Mayor has chosen to support during her term of office (Ty Hapus and The JAM Fund).

Entry fee will be £3. For more information contact 01446 704921.

Councillor says community must be involved in the future of school site

THE Vale Council has signalled its intention to dispose of Ysgol Maes Dyfan in Barry.

A cabinet report is being submitted to a meeting on July 1 which seeks cabinet approval to declare the site surplus to requirements.

It is intended that the site will be disposed of subject to planning approval for residential development following demolition.

Local independent councillor Richard Bertin said: "With the school moving to Penarth to become part of the Penarth Learning Community the site will soon become surplus."

"It is likely to be marketed off for residential development and whilst

the site is being demolished security of the site will be important."

The report is to include information on disposal, marketing of the site and legal advice.

A capital budget of £150,000 has been earmarked for the move, security and demolition of the school in Gibbonsdown Rise.

Coun Bertin is hopeful that as part of the planning application a condition is included to improve the junction of St Brides Way with Gibbonsdown Rise.

He also says that part of the site should be set aside for much-needed allotments.

He added: "It is important that the local community are involved with the future of this site."

Town Council's grants for 50 organisations

BARRY Town Council held its annual grants presentation evening in the Mayor's Parlour at the Council's Offices, Gladstone Road, Barry on Wednesday, June 5.

Fifty local organisations were presented with grants by the Mayor of Barry, Coun Claire Curtis, on behalf of the Barry Town Council.

A spokeswoman said: "The evening proved to be a great success and enjoyed by all present."

Barry Town Council hold an annual grant giving exercise yearly and local organisations are always encouraged to apply.

Applications are usu-

ally available during February and any organisation wishing to apply next year should phone Barry Town Council on (01446) 704920 closer to February 2014 to have an application pack sent out to them.

Advice for the blind

AT the Senior Health Shop, Holton Road, Barry, on Tuesday June 25, 10am to 12 noon, a professional from Cardiff Institute for the Blind will be available to give advice on services and aids available.

This will be a monthly visit. For further information contact 01446 732385.

Journalist who exposed starvation in Ukraine during 1930s is remembered... Book launched telling story of Gareth Jones

AN American professor is visiting Barry this week and at the same time, launching his new book on the highly regarded local journalist who exposed the horrors of starvation in the Ukraine during the 1930s.

In 'Gareth Jones - Eyewitness to Holodomor', Professor Ray Gamache tells

Gareth Jones' story.

Barry-born and Aberystwyth educated, Gareth Richard Vaughan Jones is now recognised as one of the first journalists to reveal the horror of the Holodomor, the Soviet Government-induced famine of the early 1930s, which killed millions of Ukrainians.

Following his eyewitness reports on the famine

that struck the Ukraine in 1932-33, published in newspapers such as the Evening Standard, Daily Express and the Western Mail, his journalistic reputation was attacked and denigrated by the Soviet Government and its sympathisers such as Walter Duranty of the New York Times.

Duranty controversially went on to win a Pulitzer Prize.

The reputation of Gareth Jones, who died in mysterious circumstances in Inner Mongolia in 1935 on the eve of his 30th birthday, has increased over the decades.

Speaking about his visit to Wales to launch the first academic study on Gareth Jones, Professor Gamache said: "In this year, which marks the 80th anniversary of the Ukrainian Holodomor, it is a real delight to visit Gareth Jones' homeland of Wales to launch my book."

"I hope it will further enhance Gareth Jones' reputation as an ethical investigative journalist who refused to accept the propaganda of government."

"His decision to ignore Soviet denials of a wide-

spread famine in the Ukraine and to embark on a fact-finding visit of his own, which revealed the true horrors of the Holodomor, makes him a hero to Ukrainians and he is possibly better known in the Ukraine than in Wales.

"It is time for that to change and the people of Wales should be very proud of Gareth Jones as both a determined seeker of truth and an accomplished journalist."

There was a debate in Westminster last week calling for the UK Government to officially recognise Holodomor as a case of genocide. Currently, the government has refused that demand.

Penarth Armed Forces Day

PENARTH will be staging its annual Armed Forces Day event this coming Saturday, June 22 from 10am to 3pm.

While the main event will be centred around Glebe Street, May I remind readers that in

the Penarth Town Council offices at West House in Stanwell Road there will be two rooms full of displays associated with Penarth's role in both world wars of the last century.

Visitors will be able to see uniforms, artefacts and memorabilia of the

period, including a piece of the wreckage of one of the Dambuster Lancaster bombers.

Staff and sixth-formers from St Cyres School and members of the Western Front Association will be on hand to conduct free online family history research.

The Military Vehicle Trust will have a number of World War Two jeeps situated around the building and across the road Stanwell Baptist Church will also have displays associated with the area and World War Two.

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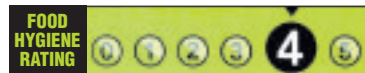
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Removal of trees aims to prolong life of cemetery

WORK will soon commence to remove four pine trees at Penarth Cemetery.

The trees, which are closely grouped together and can be located immediately in front of the cemetery chapel on 'A' ground, between the drive and the boundary with Castle Avenue, are to be removed to create up to 67 grave spaces for full interments.

The four trees, which have tall slender trunks with foliage at the very top, do not provide any screening and larger specimen trees dotted throughout this section of the cemetery are to remain.

The removal of the trees will create much needed space for full interments – without this additional space, it

is estimated land for full interments would be used up within two years.

The Town Council wishes to emphasise that land for the interment of cremated remains will continue to be available beyond that time and the Town Council also intends to investigate all possible avenues to prolong the use of the cemetery for the people of Penarth.

The chairman of the

leisure and amenities committee, Coun Rhiannon Birch, explained: "The decision to remove the trees was considered against the benefit of providing an additional 67 grave spaces for full interments for the benefit of local residents.

"The additional spaces will prolong the use of the cemetery for such interments by a further two to three years".

Church celebrates Fathers' Day

ALL Saints Church in Victoria Square, Penarth held its monthly 'messy church' service on June 14.

Appropriate for

Fathers' Day, the topic was 'Who is God?'

Families enjoyed a range of craft activities on this theme, including making telescopes and junk model rockets to think about God, the creator of the universe, and Hama bead hearts representing how much God loves each one of us.

Children made Fathers' Day cards using lentils to make a tree picture, and there was the usual Lego, colouring and playdough on offer.

In the worship session we thought again about God being very big and making the universe.

We sang 'Our God is a great big God' and prayed for our dads.

All are welcome for the next messy church, starting at 4pm on Sunday, July 21.

MEL GRIFFIN

'Reflections of a railway enthusiast'

AT the next meeting of the Rhose & District History Society, Mr Jeff Morgan will be giving a talk on 'Reflections of a railway enthusiast'.

The meeting will be at 7.30pm on Friday, June 28 at Rhose Community Hall, Stewart Road, Rhose (side entrance).

Coun Jeff James, the chairman of the society, said: "The monthly meetings with speakers are proving very popular with the entrance fee being only £1 to cover the costs of the evening. I know Jeff is very knowledgeable on the railway history of the Vale and south Wales so please do come along."

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL (BARRY PUBLIC FOOTPATH No. 18) (TEMPORARY CLOSURE) ORDER 2013

On the 10th June 2013 the Vale of Glamorgan Council in exercise of its powers under Section 14 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended), made an Order the general effect of which is as described in the schedules below:

The Order will come into force on 7th July 2013 and will be known as "The Vale of Glamorgan Council (Barry Public Footpath No 18) (Temporary Closure) Order 2013.

If you wish to question the validity of the Order or any provisions contained therein on the grounds that they are not within the powers conferred by the above Act or on the grounds that any requirement of the same or that any instrument made under it has not been complied with in relation to the Order, you may within six weeks from the 7th July 2013 apply to the High Court for this purpose.

SCHEDULE 1

No person shall proceed on foot in the locations specified in Schedule 2 below.

SCHEDULE 2

Location Barry Public Footpath No 18, shall be closed from its junction with Merthyr Dyfan Road, Barry at grid 311572 extending in a generally westerly direction to The Pastures at grid 311080 169423.

Alt. Route This diversion shall divert westbound pedestrians in a northwesterly direction along Merthyr Dyfan Road to its junction with Tennyson Road, then turning left into Coleridge Crescent, following along this road to its junction with Whitwell Road, then turning left into The Pastures, proceeding along this road to the western end of the closure, and visa-versa.

Reason To maintain public safety during construction works.

Duration From 6.00am Sunday 7th July 2013 for a maximum period of six months.

Dated this 20th day of June 2013

M. E. Punter,
Head of Visible Services & Housing,
Vale of Glamorgan Council,
The Alps, Wenvoe. CF5 6AA.

CHILDREN DRESS UP FOR INTERNATIONAL WEEK



ABOVE: The school's eco club led an assembly on World Environment Day.

PUPILS and staff at Colcot Primary school enjoyed a week of exciting activities during International Week.

It coincided this year with an open morning for parents. Each year group selected a different country to study and found out about the food, customs and traditions of each country.

There were opportunities for the children to dress up and everyone had a lot of fun. During the week, the children also took part in World Environment Day and the school eco club led an assembly to reinforce the important message of this day.

The pupils raised money for charity by wearing green to school.

CB



The school's Spanish senioritas.

Inner Wheel of Barry celebrate

The Inner Wheel Club of Barry was founded 75 years ago and the first meeting was held at Lloyd's bank, then situated at the bottom of Thomson Street.

A celebration for the anniversary was held at Ffnon Castle where club members were joined by friends from other Inner Wheel clubs.

Originally, one had to be the wife of a Rotarian to belong to the organisation but this rule has been relaxed, although the local Rotary Club is still helped in some of its activities by the Inner Wheelers.

It is pleasing to report that this year the club has raised more than £1,000 for charities.

This money is raised by holding monthly coffee mornings in the homes of club members.

Our president for the coming year is Judith Hunt and under her leadership we will be able to offer 'Service Through Friendship'.

AJ

Barry Camera Club's visit to Welsh Botanical Gardens



The camera club at the Welsh Botanical Gardens.

BARRY Camera Club visited the Welsh Botanical Gardens on May 26, when, unusually for a bank holiday, the weather was superb!

The trip was organised by Catherine Charlton and was well attended by club members who shared to save fuel and costs.

Due to the large number attending, we received a group discount. Several events were taking place inside the large domed glasshouse, such as a local club's photographic display, model trains, patchworks exhibition, wooden spoon carving, young singers and the international garden photographer of the year display in the gallery.

The grounds also include a nature reserve, lakes, wooded areas, architecture and outdoor sculptures.

Barry Camera Club meets every Friday from 7.30pm-9.30pm between September and May at St Francis Millennium Centre, Porth-y-Castell, Barry Garden Suburb, Barry, CF62 6NX. New members are always welcome to attend, with no obligation to join. Alternatively, for more information, visit

www.barrycameraclub.org.uk.

FRANK CLELAND

Language group issues invitation

IN March of this year, a new group was formed for former pupils of Ysgol Gymraeg Sant Baruc.

The group known as Afiaith – A(dfer)f(y)iaith – Restore My Language – has been well supported and is going from strength to strength.

The group has attracted over 40 people between the ages of 23 and 43.

It has been a great way of re-engaging with the Welsh language and a great way of catching up with old friends and acquaintances.

If you are a former pupil, why not join us? You will be sure to recognise some familiar faces and you'll have a good night out as well! Don't worry if your Welsh is a bit rusty – it will soon come flooding back!

Our next meeting is in the Mount Sorrel Hotel, Barry on Friday, July 12 at 8pm. We look

forward to seeing you!

YM mis Mawrth eleni, fe sefydlwyd grwp i gyn ddisgyblion yr ysgol sef Afiaith – A(dfer)f(y)iaith – OBwriad y grwp oedd i gynnig cyfle i ail afael yn y Gymraeg mewn sefyllfa gymdeithasol a hwyliog. Bu'n gyfle hefyd wrth gwrs i ail ddarganfod hen ffriindiau. Mae'r grwp yn mynd o nerth i nerth ac wedi denu dros ddugain o gynddisgyblion yr ysgol rhwng 23-43 oed.

Felly os ydych chi yn un o gynddisgyblion Sant Baruc ymunwch gyda ni – byddwch yn siwr o adnabod rhywun ac fe gewch noson ddiffr iawn hefyd! Peidiwch â phoeni os ydy eich Cymraeg ychydig yn rydlyd, buan iawn y daw'r cwbl yn ôl! Dewch i'n cyfarfod nesaf yng Ngwesty Mount Sorrel, Y Barri ar nos Wener, Gorffennaf 12 am 8 o'r gloch. Bydd yn braf eich gweld!

GH

Read your GEM online?
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Stacey to be remembered with
Teenage Cancer Trust fundraiser...

Windsor Hotel gearing up for charity event

ON Saturday, June 29 the Windsor Hotel in Barry will be hosting its fourth annual charity event in memory of Stacey Armstrong.

Stacey, who died in 2010 at the age of 20, was treated at the Teenage Cancer Trust's ward at Cardiff's University Hospital of Wales, and is remembered every year thanks to the Windsor event.

All the money raised on June 29 will be donated to the trust.

Landlord Mat Lock told The GEM: "Last year we raised a staggering £3,000 and it proved to be our best supported day yet so we are hoping we get similar support this year."

"The day comprises of a barbecue from 2pm with burgers and hot dogs on sale for a pound each, then live music from 3.30pm with artists such as Rob Barbour, Duo Act Revival, plus guests with Night Rockhouse live from 8pm.

"We will also have

by TIM CHAPMAN



Stacey's mother Karin receives Lee Selby's signed boxing glove which will be auctioned during the Windsor's charity fundraiser.

plenty of raffle prizes and local British and Commonwealth featherweight champion boxer Lee Selby has donated a boxing glove signed by him and current super featherweight British champion Gary Buckland.

"Lee has had it encased and it will be auctioned off at 7pm on the night."

"A signed Floyd Mayweather glove which was given to Lee personally whilst on training

camp in Las Vegas has been sold for £100 prior to the event taking place. "If anybody would like to donate further raffle prizes they can be left at the Windsor hotel and we would like to give thanks for all the donations already and Adam Framers for the excellent job they did with the glove."

● Lee's next fight is on July 13 at the KC stadium, Hull, against Violel Simione for the WBC international title.



ABOVE: The children enjoy a boat trip at Cardiff Bay.

Gladstone Primary School hosts the Comenius project

LIFE at Gladstone Primary School has taken on an international theme recently as the school was the proud host to visitors from Italy, France, Greece and Iceland as part of the Comenius project.

The project, co-ordinated by reception teacher Rachel Evans was entitled 'Waste Not - Want Not' and ran from September 2011 until June 2013. The main focus was recycling, re-using and reducing waste both in school and at home.

Each of the five countries involved hosted a 'Comenius Visit' which involved staff from each partner school visiting a different country every term to look at how they recycle, re-use and reduce their waste.

As Gladstone was the host school, the final visit was of course to Barry, where the 15 visitors were treated to many experiences including a special assembly by the children at



ABOVE: Excited pupils!

Gladstone, a chance to listen to Barry Male Voice Choir rehearse, a visit to Cardiff Castle and a boat trip across the barrage to Cardiff Bay.

FROGS fayre!

The sun was shining recently as families and friends of Gladstone enjoyed the summer fayre, organised by the FROGS - Friends of Gladstone School.

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VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AT DINAS POWYS



Dinas Powys Voluntary Concern treasurer, Barbara Daniels and trustee, Coun Val Hartley.



Coun John Fanshaw, Chair of Dinas Powys Voluntary Concern with Volunteer of the Year Gordon Lowe.

WELL known local man Gordon Lowe was named as the 'Volunteer of the Year' at the Dinas Powys Voluntary Concern garden party and was presented with his certificate by Coun John Fanshaw, chair of the trustees.

John Fanshaw said: "Gordon is an excellent member of the team. He works tirelessly as an escort on the minibus. He also helps with the Dinas Powys Community Club on Mondays in the Lee Hall. Not content with this, he supports the Wednesday Afternoon Club in the Murchfield Hall. Gordon is only too willing to help whenever asked."

In reply, Gordon said he was proud to receive the award, but he was surprised as he was really just one of many supporters. He enjoyed working for the community and recommended

it to others.

Coun Fanshaw added: "I'm pleased to welcome so many volunteers who do so much to help in the community. However, we are always keen to attract new volunteers. Dinas Powys Voluntary Concern is valued in the community and its services are becoming more and more essential in view of the ageing population and with issues of mobility."

"Guests and volunteers enjoyed the delightful garden of Joan Andrews, off Heol y Cawl, and the fine food supplied by willing 'assistants'."

"One of our objectives is to enable people to stay in their own homes and be active members of society. For further details contact the organiser, at Murchfield Hall, Sunnycroft Lane, 02920 513700 or via email: dpvc@btinternet.com."

School's new multi-purpose studio

WAITROSE has helped Cadoxton Primary School raise money towards a newly decorated and kitted out studio.

It is used for film-

AM's surgery ELUNED PARROTT, AM for South Wales Central, will be holding a surgery on Friday, June 21 at Tesco Superstore, Terra Nova Way, Penarth between 1pm and 2pm. No appointment is necessary.

ing, green screening and letting children's imaginations go wild!

The school worked closely with Waitrose and The Big Learning Company to put together the studio and on May 21, the studio was officially opened.

"I think the studio is amazing and it will help us learn in drama, media and help me expand my imagination," said Brandon, aged 11.

Recently, the children have been using the green screen to act as spiders, some-

one from a television show or a made up character.

Volunteers from the Barry store spent a weekend decorating the third storey room.

Headteacher Janet Hayward said: "We are very grateful to Waitrose and excited by the impact the studio will have on the learning experience we can offer our children."

The studio was declared officially open by Coun Fred Johnson, chair of the governing body.

RHYS, 11.

Barry Sea Scouts' reunion to mark 80th anniversary



PICTURED: Beavers Byron Weston, Harry Morris, Morgan Dancey, Ollie Chick, Gabby Hortop, Nathaniel Whiffen, and Cerys Jones with the watering can.

THE 6th Barry Sea Scout Group will celebrate its 80th anniversary year with a reunion for its former members on September 21.

The Cub pack and Scout troop was reformed in 1933, having been disbanded because of the Great War, when its Scoutmaster, Major Hammond, joined the army.

The group has met at St Nicholas Scout Hall since 1955, when the old church was saved from becoming derelict.

Since then, maintenance has had to be carried out, and Scouts have been maintaining the surrounding graveyard.

Recently, the Scouts cleared an area that had been a dumping ground for almost 100 years, some of the rubble was identified by archaeologist Howard Thomas as old stones having

been used to sharpen tools!

The Beaver section, led by Mrs Sue Williams, known as Ahmeek (Indian for 'Beaver') has for a number of years been teaching young Beavers aged six to eight, gardening. Potted flowers have been used to decorate and beautify the ancient Celtic Cross memorial, dedicated to the late Fredrick and Elizabeth Romilly.

Ann Evans, a former Cub Scout Leader with over 40 years' service with the group, is contacting as many ex-members as possible, to let them know about the get-together.

If you were an ex-Cub or Scout, or are in contact with any old boys, she would be delighted to hear from you. She can be contacted on 01446 736953.

Alternatively, contact former Group Scout Leader Philip Walters by email - philipwalters3434@gmail.com.

Hannah (22) scoops fashionwear awards

A BARRY student from the University for the Creative Arts (UCA) has won the prestigious Womenswear award at Graduate Fashion Week (GFW).

Hannah Williams, 22, who studied BA (Hons) Fashion at UCA Epsom, also picked up the GFW fashion innovation award for her groundbreaking silicone collection during a star-studded ceremony at London's Earls Court.

Hannah said: "It feels incredible to win this award. As a womenswear designer, you



Hannah Williams with her award. Photo: Paul Harness

dream about winning a womenswear award but you never actually think you'll win one - it's truly amazing. "Showing at

Graduate Fashion Week is the aim for every fashion student, so to be shortlisted for the gold award, and win these awards, is beyond my wildest dreams."

Simon Ofield-Kerr, UCA vice-chancellor, said: "This is a great personal achievement for Hannah and indeed for the whole fashion team at UCA Epsom."

Steven Dell, course leader, said: "We are absolutely delighted that Hannah has won the Womenswear Gala award - she is such a talented and highly creative designer, who has certainly earned this very prestigious accolade."

"I believe this award is in recognition of Hannah's use of pioneering techniques and unconventional materials, which she has used sympathetically to create a very wearable but groundbreaking womenswear collection."

Quality Mark

ROMILLY Primary School has been awarded the prestigious ICT Mark, for a second time.

Assistant headteacher, Niki Williams, commented: "On behalf of Romilly Primary School, I am delighted to be awarded the ICT Mark. It recognises our positive approach to ICT and the benefits it is bringing to our children."

"We believe that ICT can be used in every aspect of learning and that it is essential our children are equipped for the modern world."

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INVESTING IN WALES FOR GROWTH AND JOBS

INVESTING in Wales for Growth and Jobs has been the objective of the Wales Infrastructure Investment Plan which I launched last May, with the first annual report and statement on progress debated in the Senedd last week.

In my statement I said that the Welsh Government would continue to support growth and jobs against the backdrop of reducing budgets for capital expenditure.

However, I was able to report that £1.3bn has been levered into infra-

structure projects in Wales, to be delivered over the next 10 years.

Almost £462m has come from our capital reserves and these projects will create around 8,000 jobs during construction and, in the longer term, help to deliver more efficient and modern public services, such as the investment we see in 21st century schools in the Vale.

Cowbridge Comprehensive School is just one shining example of our public investment but only last week it was announced by the Vale Council that our Welsh Government funding will help improve a further nine schools in the Vale.

These plans include a £146,000 investment in

Oakfield Primary School in Gibbonsdown for a new entrance and reception area, new boilers for Gwenfio and High Street Primaries and £100,000 for Romilly Primary, as well as further investments in Bryn Hafren, Llancafarn, Peterston-super-Ely and Ysgol Bro Morgannwg.

There is more to come for the Vale as we take forward our Local Government Borrowing Initiative to assist local authorities with their prudential borrowing for a further investment of £200m, as well as the successful £170m Highways Improvement Programme, now acknowledged for maintaining better roads in Wales than any other part of the UK.

In my report, I said that our innovative finance schemes will increase investment in Wales by around £900m between 2012 and 2019, including over £200m in affordable housing schemes, so vitally important for those in housing need.

I am now responsible for European Structural Investment Funds and was in Brussels last week making the case for Wales, meeting the

Commissioner and talking to MEPs like Derek Vaughan, who has a key role in securing the EU Budget for the next round of programmes from January 2014.

We were praised by Commissioner Andor, who is responsible for the European Social Fund, supporting the effective delivery of our programmes for helping young people into work, training and apprenticeships.

This week, I also attended the Joint Ministerial Committee for Europe with ministerial colleagues from Scotland, Northern Ireland and Whitehall departments, chaired by David Lidington MP, the UK Government's Minister for Europe, to highlight the work we are doing in Wales with the benefits of European measures and funds.

The successful use of the European Jeremie Fund has assisted Finance Wales, which we set up to provide finance for Welsh businesses. It is highly regarded throughout the

UK when access to finance has proved so difficult for small businesses.

It was good to return from the Ministerial Council with the news that Bruce Dickinson has secured £5m for investment in the next stage of Cardiff Aviation in the Welsh Government St Athan Enterprise Zone, securing £1.6m from Finance Wales, drawn from the £150m Jeremie Fund.

This will enable Cardiff Aviation to manufacture and certify aircraft parts and maintenance operations in St Athan.

I am determined to face the coming weeks and months in the knowledge that we will have to grapple with further reductions in our budgets, with a clear commitment to securing growth and jobs and protecting the vulnerable in our communities.

It will be all about priorities and using every financial initiative and opportunity effectively and responsibly.

Assembly Notes



by Vale AM
JANE HUTT
(Minister for Finance and
Leader of the House)

All Saints confirmations this Sunday

ALL Saints Church in Victoria Square, Penarth, will be holding a family service at 10am on Sunday, June 23, during which six members of the congregation will be confirmed as full members of the church by the Assistant Bishop of Llandaff, Bishop David.

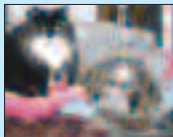
There will be worship items suitable for all ages and refreshments served afterwards.

Creche facilities available.

All are welcome – for more information visit www.allsaintспенarth.org.uk.

MG

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AM's surgery

VALE AM Jane Hutt will be holding a surgery on Friday, June 21, 4pm – 5pm at Dinas Powys Parish Hall, CF64 4AF.

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Brisk walks and brushing up on Welsh at festival

A GENTLE stroll through wooded valleys, a brisk walk along cliff-tops with breathtaking views across the channel, to storytelling, an opportunity to practice your Welsh, and even an 'Ale Trail' – the Vale of

Glamorgan Walking Festival had it all!

From the first walk visiting ancient and modern landmarks around St Lythans, a stroll through Romilly Park accompanied by Jane Hutt AM, to the appropriately named 'Island Sundowner' on Sunday evening when a large number of walkers witnessed the sun setting over Whitmore Bay, the walks provided enough variety to satisfy the diverse interests of all walkers.

With total numbers well exceeding last year's figures this – the fourth festival – was the most successful yet.

A number of walks made good use of the Wales Coastal Path and the Millennium

Heritage Trail, and one walk included a short return journey on the Greenlinks bus service.

No such event would be possible without the services of volunteer walk leaders from various organisations, who not only led all walks but compiled and even meticulously checked all routes to ensure each walk was safe and accessible.

It also provided the opportunity to identify and to report to the local authority, any issue of maintenance needing attention to ensure that the Vale continues to provide an unrivalled environment for future walkers.

CAROLYN GULLY

MP's role

The Vale MP, Alun Cairns has been appointed by the Prime Minister as one of his Business Ambassadors for the UK to help promote and represent small businesses across the country and government.

Pupils take to beaches for clean-up

PUPILS from Romilly Primary School, Barry, had a litter pick at Porthkerry Park with Vale Council's waste management and cleansing team – as part of Keep Wales Tidy's clean coast project.

"The 100 pupils combed the beach in groups, and collected some 10 bags of litter, which they took the time to split into recycling and litter so that it could be disposed of by the council in the right way," reported teacher Sarah Bird.

"The park is really near our school and pupils go there at weekends and holidays. We're really keen on environmental projects and looking after our area, so we thought we'd combine the two."

Coun Rob Curtis, cabinet member for the environment and visible services, said: "It's fabulous to be reminded yet

NEWS FROM ROMILLY PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

again how keen our young Vale residents are to get involved. The pupils have taken a real pride in their local area, and we're very grateful for them to be working with us to help keep our local area spick and span. Well done, Romilly Primary!"

PUPILS GET ICT STAMP OF APPROVAL

CHILDREN at Romilly Primary School have been praised for their use of information and communications technology (ICT).

Following an extensive external assessment, the school has been awarded the prestigious ICT Mark for a second

time.

Assistant headteacher Niki Williams said: "On behalf of Romilly Primary School, I am delighted to be awarded the ICT Mark. It recognises our positive approach to ICT and the benefits it is bringing to our children."

"We believe that ICT can be used in every aspect of learning and that it is essential our children are equipped for the modern world."

Concert at City Hall

ON Monday, June 17, Romilly School orchestra had the privilege of playing in front of a packed audience at City Hall, Cardiff.

Thirty children from years 3 – 5 took along their cellos, violins, saxophones, trumpets, flutes, guitars, keyboards and xylophones, and performed 'I'm A Believer' as a finale to a wonderful concert showcasing the talents of children across the county.

As part of the Cardiff and Vale Music Service, this year schools have been able to get peripatetic music teaching, and the concert brought all the children together to show what they had been learning.

A total of 270 children from across the Vale and Cardiff played various instruments, from African drumming, to ukulele groups, with the orchestra from Romilly rounding everything off.

A joint rendition of 'La Bamba' from all the children brought the house down at the end. It truly was a fantastic experience for the children and will remain in everyone's memory for a long time!

PACT MEETINGS

COFFEE and chat, June 21 at The Old Post, Bonvilston at 11.30am.

DYFAN PACT, June 23 at North Walk Community Centre, North Walk, Barry at 7pm.

BUTTRILLS PACT, June 27 at

the Philip John Community Room, Barry Library, Tynwydd Road, Barry at 6.30pm.

Coffee and chat, July 2 at Ystradowen Community Hall at 11am.

Park becomes place of wonder for pupils

CHILDREN from seven Vale primary schools were treated to a special theatrical production when they visited Porthkerry Country Park last week.

Mel Stewart, Ranger at Porthkerry, reported: "This has been a wonderful week; the sun has shone, and with the help of Theatr Iolo, the park has been transformed into a place full of wonder and story telling; many of the stories were actually based around the myths and legends associated with the park."

The pupils were met by story collector and 'Mythographer', Sarah Morag Murphy. The children then found Tomos, washed up by his driftwood shack and sad because he'd lost his notebook full of stories.

Next came Ann, who was cross to find the children walking on 'her' beach.

The two characters led the children through the magical woods, and after finally reaching Ann's cottage, buried deep in the forest, sang songs, ate their freshly picked apples and told stories.

Dylan, from Eagleswell Primary, said: "It's been the best school trip ever – it was like being inside a story book!"

Eleven groups of year two pupils from seven different primary schools including Dinas Powys Infants, Romilly, St Josephs, Rhws, St Athan, Eagleswell and St Andrews, took part in the Tales of Driftwood project.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL (EGLWYS BREWYS ROAD (PART) LLANTWIT MAJOR) (ROAD CLOSURE) (TEMPORARY) ORDER 2013

On 10th June 2013 the Vale of Glamorgan Council in exercise of its powers under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended), made an Order the general effect of which is as described in the schedules below:

The Order will be known as "The Vale of Glamorgan Council (Eglwys Brewys Road (Part) Llantwit Major) (Road Closure) (Temporary) Order" 2013.

SCHEDULE 1

No person shall cause or permit a motor vehicle to proceed in the location specified in Schedule 2 below.

SCHEDULE 2

Location	Eglwys Brewys Road, Llantwit Major from its junction with the B4265 Llantwit Major by-pass in a generally north easterly direction to the junction of Church Meadow. A distance of approximately 200m.
Reason	To allow essential railway bridge maintenance works to take place.
Duration	From 9.30am on Monday 22nd July 2013 until 4.00pm on Friday 16th August 2013.
Alt. Route	Diversion for south westbound traffic during the above closure will be signed in a north easterly direction along Eglwys Brewys Road and continuing along this road to the junction of Cowbridge Road, then turning right at this junction and continuing in a generally southerly direction through the village of St Athan, to where this road meets the B4265 at Gileston Cross, then turning right onto the B4265, and proceeding in a generally westerly direction to the south western point of the closure, and visa-versa.

NB Pedestrian Access will be maintained at all times

Dated this 20th day of June 2013

M. E. Punter,
Head of Visible Services & Housing,
Vale of Glamorgan Council,
The Alps, Wenvoe. CF5 6AA.



CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG GORCHYMYN (CAU FFORDD) (DROS DRO) (HEOL EGLWYS BREWYS (RHAN YN UNIG), LLANILLTUD FAWR 2013

Ar 10 Mehefin 2013, yr oedd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, gan arfer ei bwerau o dan Adran 14(1) Deddf Rheoli Traffig 1984 (ddwygiedig), wedi gwneud Gorchymyn a fydd yn cael yr effaith gyffredinol a ddisgrifir yn yr Atodleni isod:

Adwaenir y Gorchymyn fel 'Gorchymyn (Cau Ffordd) (Dros Dro) Heol Eglwys Brewys, Llanilltud Fawr (Rhan yn unig)' Cyngor Bro Morgannwg 2013'.

ATOLDEN 1

Ni fydd neb yn gyrru nac yn caniatáu i neb arafu yrru modur yn y lleoliad a nodwyd yn Atolden 2 isod.

ATOLDEN 2

Lleoliad	Heol Eglwys Brewys, Llanilltud Fawr, o'r gyffordd â ffordd osgoi Llanilltud Fawr B4265 i gyfeiriad cyffredinol y gogledd ddwyrair i gyffordd Church Meadow - sef pellter o ryw 200m.
Rheswm	Gwneud gwaith cynnal a chadw hanfodol ar bont y rheilffordd.
Cyfnod	O 9.30am ar ddydd Llun 22 Gorffennaf 2013 hyd 4.00pm a ddydd Gwener 16 Awst 2013.
Llwybr arall	Tra bod yr heol uchod ar gau, bydd traffig sy'n teithio i'r de orllewin yn cael ei ddargyfeirio drwy gymorth arwyddion, i gyfeiriad y gogledd ddwyrair, ar hyd Heol Eglwys Brewys, i'r gyffordd â Heol y Bont-faen. Bydd yn troi i'r dde yn y fan honno ac yn symud ymlaen ar hynt ddeheuol i bob pwrpas drwy bentref Sain Tathan nes cyrraedd y gyffordd â phrifffordd B4265 wrth Groes Silstwn. Bydd yn troi i'r dde eto yn y fan honno, i'r briffordd honno, ac yn symud ymlaen i gyfeiriad cyffredinol y gorllewin nes cyrraedd pen de-orllewinol yr ardal a gaewyd. Yr un fath yn union fydd y drefn ar gyfer traffig sy'n teithio o'r cyfeiriad arall, ond o chwith.

D.S. Bydd mynediad i gerddwyr drwy gydol yr amser.

Dyddiedig 20 Mehefin 2013.

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Come join the Vale People First group

VALE People First is a self-advocacy independent group of people who have a learning disability and campaign for equality being treated fairly.

We held our first meeting in June which was opened by Jane Hutt AM, a trustee of Vale People First. We talk about things that are important in our lives and have fun.

If you would like to join us, our next meeting is on July 16 at Cadoxton Conservative Club, 5pm till 7pm.

For more information contact Vale People First on 01446 732926 or Geoff (Real Lives facilitator) on 07888972840.

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VALE MP's VIEWPOINT

Small businesses are the key to economic recovery

LAST week, I was fortunate to be invited to No 10 to be appointed by the Prime Minister as one of his Small Business Ambassadors for the UK.

The event coincided with a new government campaign launched by David Cameron.

A team of ambassadors were appointed to help promote and represent small businesses across the country and to government. We will be hosting events across Wales and the UK over the coming months and, of course, I shall be championing the cause of small business in Barry and the Vale within government.

The campaign celebrates what small businesses do for our economy, for jobs and communities here in the Vale and across the UK. A key part of the campaign and my role though, is to listen to what more can be done to help small businesses succeed.

Small businesses are the bedrock of the economy and are vital to economic recovery from Barry and across the Vale.

Last year, the government presided over the largest number of business start-ups in a 12-month period in recorded history, with the total number reaching 4.8 million businesses created.



Vale MP Alun Cairns reports to GEM readers

Small businesses, which employ up to 50 employees, contribute half of the jobs and half of the private sector turnover in the economy.

To date, the government has implemented a raft of measures that have provided real help to small businesses up and down the country, with 5,000 companies receiving help to get started with the 'start-up loans scheme'.

The Chancellor has made sure that small businesses get help in taking on their first

employee, with the employment allowance taking £2,000 off the National Insurance payments required.

Small businesses who are keen to trade internationally can now get help to make their first export with the help of UKTI and the Welsh Government.

But I know that there is more we can do.

That's why I want to make sure that by listening to small businesses and understanding what would help them, the government can refresh its small business strategy, removing red tape and assisting businesses to export.

I know from my meetings with local business owners and traders across the Vale that they want to see a single source of information and advice.

Essential too is for simple, clear access to government advice services. Ultimately, stability in the services that are available are a must.

I am so pleased to be able to do all I can to put forward the case for small business across Government.

I will make sure that the issues raised by small businesses and traders locally are heard in government, and that changes can be made to best support our entrepreneurs and small business owners grow their companies in our communities across the Vale.

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Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Branch Manager Phil Powell feels that it's all about service. "Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, at though

that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their home as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service the Vale, Bridgend, BCT and Porthawl areas and Phil is finding that his

approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've

done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

Six, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Phil a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!



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VALE HORSE TRADER IS GUILTY OF CAUSING SUFFERING TO ANIMALS

A SOUTH Wales man has been found guilty of causing unnecessary suffering to and failing to meet the needs of 27 horses.

The verdict came a month after his two sons admitted offences relating to the same group of equines.

Thomas Tony Price (49) of Glan y Mor Lane, Wick, was found guilty of a total of 57 offences at Cardiff Magistrates' Court.

His eldest son Thomas Hope Price (26) of Rover Way, Cardiff, pleaded guilty to 42 charges, including causing unnecessary suffering to 18 horses, at Cardiff Magistrates' Court on May 8.

The remaining charges involved failing to meet the welfare needs of these and a further nine horses by either failing to address their weight loss, protect them from injury, pain or disease or failing to ensure they had clean and hazard-free environments with dry lying areas.

A second son, Tony John Price (19) also of Rover Way, Cardiff, admitted failing to meet the welfare needs of a piebald cob colt by failing to explore and address his weight loss and failing to meet the welfare needs of a piebald filly on May 8.

Price senior was the director of a business known as Glamorgan Horse Traders and Thomas Price was listed as secretary of the same business, which deals in horses across the UK, Europe and America.

The offences related to 27 gypsy cob type ponies which were removed from five different locations across the Vale and Bridgend between February and March 2012.

Sixteen of the horses were chipped and further investigations identified a link to Thomas Price senior.

Twelve of the horses were found locked in a barn with no space or access to food or water. They

were very underweight and suffering from various untreated conditions.

The Prices are thought to own around 2,500 horses, which are kept at various locations throughout Wales and England.

The RSPCA and other charities had previously advised them to keep the numbers down and manage breeding, as they couldn't guarantee the care arrangements of most of the animals and, since around 2011, problems developed with stray horses and 'fly grazing' in the south Wales area.

RSPCA inspector Christine McNeil said: "These horses turned out to be the most poorly and diseased horses I have come across. It is my belief that the 12 in the barn had been left there to die."

"These horses were suffering or their needs were not being met but there are hundreds of other horses across Wales and England which may not be suffering but are just being left to illegally graze and indiscriminately breed. It really is a massive problem that we struggle to deal with day after day."

The three men will be sentenced at Cardiff Magistrates' Court on July 5.

RSPCA National Director for Wales, Steve Carter said: "This case highlights the fact that owners need to be made accountable for their horses. The issues of fly grazing, abandonment and irresponsible breeding need to be addressed with strong and effective legislation."

"Our resources and those of other welfare charities are at breaking point and urgent action is needed to avoid what is already an animal welfare crisis getting any worse."

Daneille gains her 'colours'



Lt Col Chambers receives her colours.

LANCE Corporal Daneille Chambers has been awarded her Welsh colours for athletics.

She gained this distinction for representing Wales ACF in the national athletic competition held at Grantham recently. Well done!

Barry Cadets parade on Tuesday and Thursday from 7pm to 9pm.

Steve Wood

Barry school's summer festival

THIS year's summer festival at St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School, Barry, is on Friday, June 21, 7pm - 8.30pm.

The festival celebrates the performance and practical work that St Richard Gwyn's pupils have worked hard in pro-

ducing all year. will be music, dance and drama performances, and art and product design displays.

Entrance is £3 including refreshments and tickets are available from the school.

Telephone 01446 729250, email info@strichardgwyn.co.uk or call at reception.

Grace Queens it for a day at Rhose WI!



CELEBRATION was the theme of Rhose WI's June meeting when members marked the 60th anniversary of the Queen's coronation.

There was also a more personal anniversary, that of Grace Watkins with 50 years of unbroken membership at Rhose, from June 6, 1963 to June 6 this year.

Grace entered into the spirit of the Coronation celebration, arriving regally dressed as the Queen, complete with crown and corge!

The president marked the occasion by presenting Grace with a bouquet on behalf of all the members.

During her speech of thanks, Grace stressed the value of the friendship she had enjoyed over her 50-year membership. She then said that later she will be going to Buckingham Palace to take tea with the real Queen on Grenadier Guards Day.

Before enjoying a delicious supper, every-

one joined in a 'Tai Chi taster session,' led by Christy Butterick and also listened to a lively report of the spring council meeting by delegate Susan Hamer.

An enjoyable and eventful evening ended with the announcement of the competition winners, with Grace Watkins winning the crown competition, Jan Dalley the photograph competition and the raffles were won by Beryl Knight and Joy Grant.

The next meeting will take place at the Community Hall, Stewart Road, on July 4 at 7.30pm, when Pat Summers will give a talk and demonstration on the subject of 'Lavender.' New members and visitors will be very welcome to attend.

Diary dates: June 20, lunch club at The Clink Restaurant, Cardiff Prison, 12 noon; June 21, skittles at Rhose Social Club at 2pm, followed by tea and cake at Coffee Time.

Every Tuesday from 11am, coffee and chat at Coffee Time.

JJ

Man punched and kicked by four youths

OFFICERS from British Transport Police (BTP) are appealing for information after a man was attacked by four men at Pontyclun rail station on Friday, May 17, when stones were thrown at the victim and he was knocked to the ground.

PC Cathy McGrath, the investigating officer, said: "Around 11pm, the victim, a 27-year-old man from Llanharan, was walking along Ynysddu towards the station. He was followed by four men, who began throwing stones at him. When he reached the station, the men set upon him, punching and kicking him to the ground."

Police have released descriptions of those involved and are asking anyone with information to come forward.

PC McGrath added:

"The first youth is described as around 17 years old, approximately 5ft 6in, stocky build with short, dark hair with a fringe, and wearing a hooded top."

"The second man is described as slightly older, between 18 and 19, also of big build, wearing a hooded top and a Russian-style hat."

"The other two men are described as being aged between 18 and 19 and were wearing dark clothing. This was a particularly nasty incident which left the victim in some distress."

"Luckily he did not suffer any serious injuries but this was a frightening experience for him."

Contact British Transport Police on 0800 40 50 40 quoting blackground reference B3/WCA of 06/06/2013. Information can also be passed (anonymously) to the independent charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Councillor's concern at NHS reorganisation

A PLAID Cymru councillor has warned that cuts to A&E and maternity services at hospitals in Bridgend or Llantrisant would stretch resources at the Heath, and affect all residents in the Vale, including those in places like Barry and Dinas Powys.

Coun Ian Johnson, who is on the Vale Council's social care and health committee, claimed that the case has not been well made for the removal of top level consultant-led A&E and maternity services from south Wales hospitals.

He said: "The south Wales programme for hospital reconfiguration will mean the loss of top-tier consultant-led A&E and maternity services from at least one of the hospitals in south Wales, possibly two."

"Under these proposals, the hospitals and communities most likely to lose out are Royal Glamorgan in Llantrisant and Princess of Wales in Bridgend."

Coun Johnson said he feared there would be a substantial knock-on effect if people currently using those hospitals went to the Heath instead.

"Does the Heath really have the capacity to cope if those currently using Bridgend or the Royal Glamorgan now travel there?"

route of centralising top level services, then residents across the Vale may face delays in A&E and maternity services because of the pressure of more ambulances arriving at the same locations.

"That means that it will also affect people in places like Barry, Dinas Powys, Rhose, Penarth and Cardiff, as well as places like Llantwit Major and Cowbridge, who will have to travel further in an emergency."

He went on: "Research from Sheffield University shows that there is a direct link between travel time and mortality rates, so any changes to A&E really is a matter of life and death."

"With the Welsh Ambulance Service failing to meet its arrival targets month-on-month, these proposals are scary."

"Unfortunately the focus has become which departments to close, treating the symptom not the cure."

"The health boards are saying that there are not enough doctors so we must centralise facilities, rather than recruiting more doctors to ensure a safer service."

"Plaid Cymru believes that attracting and recruiting doctors to work in our hospitals is the key to a better Welsh NHS."



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ABOVE: All Saints pupils on their fun run.



ON a lovely sunny afternoon recently, the Parents and Friends Association at All Saints Church in Wales Primary School held their annual fun run.

This is a hugely popular event where pupils obtain sponsorship to run laps of the school field, negotiating a few tricky obstacles set up by PE co-ordinator, Mr Ball.

The super PFA team monitor the laps and mark them with stickers and they also provide a refreshments stall for thirsty runners.

The event is always well supported and raises around £1,000 for school equipment each year. Headteacher Richard Ware thanked all who helped to make the fun run a success and he said: "This is a great way to raise money for the school, taking lots of healthy exercise while having fun at the same time."

Vale MP welcomes St Athan investment

VALE MP Alun Cairns has welcomed the news that Cardiff Aviation, the aircraft maintenance and flight training organisation set up by Iron Maiden's Bruce Dickinson, has secured a £5m investment which will allow it to manufacture aircraft parts.

Mr Cairns visited the fledgling St Athan company in March this year, to welcome the latest staff to the team. This new investment includes £1.6m from Finance Wales, with the remainder being provided by private investors.

Cardiff Aviation will use the funds to gain approval to allow it to manu-

facture and certify aircraft parts, as well as its maintenance operations.

He said: "Cardiff Aviation continue to invest in their new company which was only launched in 2012. This latest investment is great news for the local community and demonstrates confidence in the economy."

"Their investment in St Athan looks to use the skills and expertise of Vale residents, and this latest investment boost ensures that the company will be looking to employ senior technical and operational staff over the coming months."

"The funding will also be invested in more engineering equipment to enhance the excellent technical capability at the Twin Peaks hangar, which the company took over from the RAF."

Appeal for more Brownie leaders

AT the end of this summer term, the 94th Penarth Brownie Unit will have no leaders, as the current leaders, who are all university students, are

leaving the area.

Being a Brownie leader is a very rewarding experience, and help is available through training and support from a friendly district team, as well as other leaders in the 94th Group.

No previous experience of Guiding is required. Brownie Leaders must be female, but men are welcome to volunteer as unit helpers.

A spokeswoman said: "Perhaps you would be willing to give it a try as a joint role with a friend?"

"We have fantastic resources available at our hall, and the programme is varied and interesting."

"Our Brownie unit currently meets once a week in the early evening during school term times at Stanwell Road Baptist Church Hall."

If you are interested in becoming a leader, contact district Guiding commissioner, Geraldine Dorman, on 029 2070 7402 (or email gmdorman@hotmail.com); speak to one of the group leaders at Scouts, Guides, Rangers, Brownies, Beavers or Cubs. Leaders are at the church hall most evenings.

NEWS FROM THE FONMON APIARY

The battle is on to keep the bees we have left!

AT last, we are getting weather that the bees and beekeeper have been hoping for. There are a variety of plants now in flower and the bees are making the most of them.

Admittedly things are something like a month behind, but better late than never.

Winter losses by many beekeepers will certainly mean fewer calls to handle swarms.

I have been to three so far; one swarm in the St Mellon's area was most difficult to try and collect.

It initially settled on a low garden wall but due to disturbance, vacated the area and chose to settle on the roadway several hundred metres distant. Once again disturbance, mainly from passing cars, caused the bees to split into three groups along the road, plus the added fact that someone had poured water onto the main body of bees and consequently killed a lot of them.

A box containing some wax frames did encourage many bees to walk in, but it was a long and protracted episode and survival of the bees is not a likely outcome.

On a different note altogether, I attended a local swarm that had taken up residence in a metre long bird box attached to a garage wall and by waiting until late evening, when all flying had ceased for the day, with the assistance of the property owner, this swarm was removed (still in the box) and I now have it at one of the apiaries, awaiting its transfer from bird box into a better environment – a proper hive.

The third swarm was almost at ground level in a hedgerow in the Danescourt area of Cardiff, and this entailed the use of a straw skep that could be squeezed into a shape beneath the bees, then by vigorously shaking the hedge, a majority of the swarm fell into the skep (straw basket). As the Queen was among them, all of the remaining bees soon

followed. Within the hour this swarm was transferred into a hive at one of our apiaries.

There are many newcomers to the art of beekeeping this year and all have not yet acquired bees, many are still awaiting the arrival of a nucleus (a paid-for package of bees), but this is now a delayed event due of course to prolonged winter.

Where possible, a swarm will be the starting point for a few beginners, but as I have pointed out, these too may not be as abundant as they usually are.

My bees here at Fonmon are doing okay but I have suffered losses, along with many beekeepers.

Keeping what bees we have left alive will be the main activity for this year.

There is the possibility of making an increase in hive numbers by split-

ting any colony that is expanding in numbers and is likely to swarm.

However, that will only happen if the Queens are laying on a regular basis and the weather stays fine and the bees can get out to collect nectar and pollen.

It is good news for pollinating insects that a ban on the use of Neonicotinoid seed dressing is to be introduced for two years from December of this year. The use of this form of pest control has long caused controversy and has been linked to the worldwide decline of many species.

Will beekeeping survive? Will anything on this world of ours survive? Not unless we humans take a long hard look at our voracious consumption of the planet's assets. Do we have time, or the will, to change? Who knows?

Harold Williams

The GEM is in partnership with the Dogs Trust to find caring homes for animals in their charge at Bridgend Rehoming Centre (Telephone: 01656 725219)

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She is fine to be left alone for a few hours, and is good travelling in the car. As a Collie, she is very bright, and will make a lovely, rewarding dog for the right owner.

Her new owner will need to make a few trips to visit her at the centre, before taking her home and we will help you introduce your own dogs to the lovely Coco.

If you would like any more information about Coco, please call us on 01656 725219, or pop in to Dogs Trust, Court Colman, Pen-y-Fai, Bridgend, CF31 4NG. We are open 12pm-4pm every day except Monday, with late night opening on Wednesdays until 8pm.

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Sully pupils become engineers for the day!



Pupils working together to build the bridge. Photo by Fotowales.

PUPILS from Sully Primary School have been encouraged to think about engineering during a workshop organised by the Institution of Civil Engineers, the oldest professional institution in the world.

Both year-5 classes were given the opportunity to build a 15-metre cable-stayed bridge – a mini version of the second Severn crossing – supported by civil engineering ambassadors and CITB ConstructionSkills Wales.

The children – wearing high visibility jackets, hard hats, gloves and goggles – worked in their school hall in two teams to construct the bridge from opposite ends before meeting in the middle.

Once completed, the children were able to walk across the bridge... after first sending their headteacher Mrs Hart and teachers Mrs Martin and Miss Reynolds over to test it!

Keith Jones, director ICE Wales Cymru, said: "Civil engineers are

highly skilled individuals with a flair for problem solving with excellent earning potential and we would like to encourage young people, particularly girls, to consider civil engineering as a possible career path."

He continued: "ICE Wales Cymru regularly takes bridges into schools across Wales – working with CITB ConstructionSkills Wales and Careers Wales – interacting with thousands of young people each year, raising awareness of what we do as civil engineers and encouraging them to think about becoming professional engineers in the future."

Mrs Hart said: "The children thoroughly enjoyed the bridge building workshops and their insight into what being an engineer is like."

"They particularly enjoyed working with real civil engineers, who also shared their experiences of working on a variety of engineering projects from mining in Australia to working on the Olympic Stadium – and that was just the female engineers!"

Appeal over parking

PENARTH'S longest serving councillor has expressed his concerns over apparent anomalies in the new parking restrictions in Penarth Town Centre, citing the fact that many unwary motorists are receiving unexpected parking penalties.

Coun Anthony Ernest said that since the replacement 'limited waiting' signs had been renewed in Windsor Road, which now allocate goods vehicle parking only between early morning and later in the day, numerous motorists had received tickets for parking private cars in the spaces allocated for goods vehicles, prior to the lifting of the restriction at midday.

Said Coun Ernest: "It seems that these specialist restrictions for heavy goods vehicles have been implemented without any prior or public consultation, and this has caused unwitting motorists, who assume that they can park quite legally in these spaces, to be pounced on by the new traffic wardens patrolling Penarth's streets."

He said particular problems had been caused by the restrictions outside the Co-op store and Nationwide Building Society premises.

Coun Ernest added: "I hope that the Vale Council will give serious consideration to cancelling these penalties until improved markings are evident".

Mum thanks man who helped during daughter's seizure

A Llantwit Major mum has thanked an unknown man who helped her when her teenage daughter suffered an epileptic fit while they were out walking to the local post box.

Kay Griffiths said: "May I through The GEM say a 'HUGE THANKYOU' to the very kind gentleman who came to my assistance when my daughter suffered an

epileptic seizure on the corner of Grange Gardens whilst out walking to the post box.

"He kindly offered physical support as well as reassurance until my husband arrived in the car to take us home where she rested until fully recovered."

"Several other people also stopped and offered help. To you all, we say thank you. Your kindness was very much appreciated."

Local bureau recognises volunteers

DURING National Volunteers Week in early June, the Vale Volunteer Bureau hosted three events to promote volunteering and recognise those who give their time to help others.

On June 3, the bureau opened its new premises in Llantwit Major.

The new office which is located next to the Post Office on Boverton Road was officially opened at 10am by local cabinet member Coun Gwyn John.

This facility is open from 10am to 2pm Monday, Tuesday,

Thursday and Friday for anyone interested in volunteering, or for volunteer recruiting organisations.

On Wednesday, June 5 the Mayor of the Vale, Coun Margaret Wilkinson presented certificates to volunteers of the Vale Volunteer Bureau at their premises on Holton Road in Barry.

To culminate the week, the Vale Volunteer Bureau held an 'Appreciate' event to celebrate the time given by all local volunteers.

This event took place at King Square, Holton Road, Barry, on Saturday, June 8.

Pub competition finds new home

IT was a sad day, at the end of April, when the Barry pub Gordon Bennett's closed its doors for the last time, after 10 years of trading in the Broad Street area.

Landlord Mr Ben Bennett had hosted the competition, the KGB Tournament (named after his father Kenneth George Bennett) that over the years had helped raise money for various charities, but in particular The Jam Fund.

The competition is run on the basis of predicting Premiership Football results throughout the season and then at the end of the season,

the participant with the most points wins the prize money from the pool of people who entered, along with the accolade of having their name engraved into the history books and onto the coveted trophy itself.

Customers and competitors old and new, past and present expressed their concerns over the future of the competition and it was an actual competitor by the name of Sue Orpin, who came forward to volunteer the services of The Barry Plastics Club Market Street, Barry.

This year's winner was Ivan MacKenzie.

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'An elegant, flamboyant lady who was kind, caring and charismatic'

OBITUARY: Eileen Rebecca Watkins of Westgate Lodge, Cowbridge

THE funeral of Eileen Watkins took place last week on Tuesday, June 11, at the Vale of Glamorgan Crematorium in Barry.

It was followed by a memorial service at Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge.

Her husband Basil has supplied The GEM with some personal memories (see article to the right).

During the memorial service, which was a celebration of her life, a tribute was given by a close friend of the family, Jeanne Harvey, and extracts from that tribute are reproduced here:

Eileen loved life and she lived it to the full. She was fun!

This elegant, flamboyant lady was kind, caring and charismatic. A character. She was very much her own woman.

She seemed to be a constant in so many people's lives, she was always there.

She enjoyed discussions on current affairs, and would ask 'Where do you stand on this?'

At times, rather than upset you if she strongly disagreed, she would purse her lips, sniff and mutter mmmh! She never bore a grudge.

She loved cooking and was often to be found with her nose in a cookery book or collecting recipes. She adored entertaining, was a generous hostess and made

a point of welcoming new people to the Vale. Many of us owe our diverse social life to her.

Eileen was always at Basil's side, seated in the front row at events, in the Millennium Stadium for rugby (although some say she went for the singing, not the game).

She could be found working tirelessly in the background at fund raising events: cooking, running the raffle and organising the seating plan. Many charities have benefited from her generosity of time, effort and skills.

Shopping was one of Eileen's loves. An intrepid shopper: no cursory glance at goods for her, she inspected every item minutely, discussed its attributes in length much to the dismay of her more impatient companions and she could certainly find the bargains.

Who's Who had competition. Ask Eileen about anybody, even just describe them and there was instant recall. She would give you a comprehensive run down on them.

She seemed to know everybody in the Vale and all about them, such was her interest in people.

Radio 4 was well supported by her, it was on almost constantly. The Archers was a subject for discussion and her opinion of the characters was well known.

Her love of the programme probably stemmed from the fact

that Norman Painting, who wrote much of the script and played Phil Archer, was her lecturer at university.

While holidaying with friends, concern arose as animated conversation was heard coming from Eileen's bedroom in the middle of the night.

On entering the room the couple's friends discovered Basil fast asleep and Eileen listening to a heated discussion on the World Service.

In recent months Radio 4 had been a great solace to her during her sleepless nights.

While travelling, advice on navigation was a mixture of Eileen advising in one's left ear, while the sat nav tried to get a word in in one's right ear.

After about four circuits of a roundabout, the problem was solved, and the sat nav capitulated.

Eileen had not enjoyed good health for many months. Being Eileen she stoically carried on with her home and outside commitments, never boring others with the pain and distress she was experiencing.

Most of us here have lost a caring, loyal, loving and thoughtful friend.

We will often speak of her and remember her for the character she was, and the ways in which she so enriched our lives.

Eileen Rebecca Watkins, thank you for just being you.

A honeymoon in Europe - in an Austin Seven!

EILEEN'S husband, Basil Watkins, shared some memories of his own with The GEM.

Eileen Rebecca Box was born in Birmingham on October 31, 1927. Her father was a grocer and tea blender, and Eileen was very proud of him - and also protective, as he was blind.

She was educated at King Edward's Camp Hill Birmingham. During the Second World War, she was evacuated to Lichfield because the shop was close to the Birmingham Small Arms Factory.

On one occasion, German planes missed the factory and bombed Eileen's bedroom.

She took a degree in education at Birmingham University and as she was about to graduate, Basil, having completed National Service, arrived to start his degree.

He was fascinated by a dark haired girl who bounced in every afternoon and would immediately be surrounded by six young blades.

Rag Week and the University Ball presented the ideal opportunity for Basil to get to know her better. Eileen was dressed as a pirate and Basil as a vicar.

Her dance partner was a Welsh rugby player with size 13 shoes, not conducive to ball room dancing, so Basil tapped him on the shoulder and said: "Excuse me, but it's my turn now".



They were married on August 24, 1955, and after buying an Austin 7 1930 drop hood coupe, they took tinned food and a tent and toured France.

The car was 'gravity feed' and when a steep incline was encountered it had to be reversed up. They arrived in France and, while Basil was taking a photograph, Eileen emerged from the ship's hold, driving backwards up the steep spiral ramp to the cheers of French onlookers, who had come to see the arrival of the Gold Plated Daimler carrying Sir Bernard and Lady Docker.

They had many adventures and made lots of friends, particularly in Italy. Driving beside the river in dense fog they came upon a stretch of grass, so they pitched tent for the night - only to find in the morning that they

were camped on the front lawn of the local vineyard owner.

But they soon made friends and toured his vineyard and sampled his wine!

Her family were so important to Eileen, she was so proud of them all: She loved the boys to bits, relishing the fact that they were quite different from each other in temperament.

She could never quite believe her luck that one of her best friends turned out to be her daughter-in-law, Sue, someone Eileen admired and loved in equal measure.

She was the daughter she never had - a haven among the Watkins men.

Eileen was a teacher: Having taught at Princethorpe in Birmingham, her first job in Wales was at Palmerston, then she moved to Ely, where, she said: "I learnt words I never knew existed and they were not all Welsh!"

Lots of her pupils later became known to the police, causing the staunchly right wing Eileen to pronounce: "I always knew he would turn out a n'er-do-well!"

She taught for well over 40 years. Beneath layers of amusing cynicism about the horrors of modern educational methods lay a genuine love of teaching: she never gave it up and helped out at Pendoylan School well into her eighties.

The Watkins family would like to thank all the mourners for attending, and for the incredible number of tributes received.

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Out and About with The GEM

Have a brew-up for Marie Curie!



Millie Charles-Davies at the Marie Curie Hospice in Penarth.

LOCAL teen beauty queen Millie Charles-Davies is supporting Marie Curie Cancer Care's Blooming Great Tea Party campaign this summer.

At Galaxy Pageant last year, she won the title of Miss Galaxy Teen Barry, and her chosen charity was Marie Curie.

Millie's mum said: "Having lost her Nan to cancer two years ago this is very close to her heart, and Marie Curie made things so much more

bearable for the whole family. The hospice itself and the staff are like guardian angels, when you don't know what to do and how to cope.

"As a family, we will always be eternally grateful to them."

Millie is urging everyone to join her and sign up to hold a tea party in June and July.

For more information, contact the local fundraising office on 02920 426068 or you can register online at www.mariecurie.org.uk/teaparty.

This Man of Steel is anything but super...

THE last time Superman hit cinema screens in 2006's *Superman Returns*, the end result was an effort that was more a loving tribute to Richard Donner's seminal 1978 film than an attempt to re-establish 'Supes' in the 21st century.

With Chris Nolan stepping into the producer's shoes, and Zack Snyder at the helm, more is expected of *Man Of Steel*, which sees Henry Cavill step into the iconic red and blue costume.

When earth is invaded by fellow Kryptonian General Zod (Michael Shannon) and his army, Clark Kent must become the icon he was destined to be from the start, and stop Zod from destroying his adopted planet...

The big problem Bryan Singer had when *Superman Returns* was released was how you put such a clean-cut, straight-edged hero into a world that, post 9/11, has seen black and

white, good and evil, become a seemingly infinite number of grey shades.

The answer then was to steer clear, to stick to the moral code of the late 1970s, and understandably the film just didn't resonate.

For Christopher Nolan, David S Goyer and Zack Snyder, there has been no reticence in updating Superman, having seen how the best superhero films of recent times have played things with a realistic tint; however, while this is certainly to be applauded, it is unfortunate that *Man Of Steel* leaves you still waiting for a great modern Superman film.

The story plays part origin story, part 'first contact' film, as we learn about the background to the original superhero and what happens when a man from an alien planet comes to earth and is brought out in the open for the world to see.

While the opening 40 minutes or so play out that way (along with an epic opening set piece on Supe's home planet of Krypton) and make for a far more grounded take on the character than we've previously seen on screen, the film takes a turn for the worse as dramatic subtlety is replaced by the sort of ridiculous CGI carnage that even Michael Bay might actually balk at.

The narrative gives way to what feels like one constant action sequence, technically superb but smacking of overkill in the extreme, as people are smashed through buildings, trucks, satellites... you name, it's probably been destroyed in this film!

Zack Snyder has



by GARETH JAMIESON

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been a director capable of marrying substance to visual style, and while *Man Of Steel* certainly doesn't lack the latter (although his annoying overuse of slow-motion has now been replaced by triple-zooms), there just doesn't feel anywhere near enough of the former, the story padded out by the aforementioned overlong action and having no depth.

It isn't a surprise the cast don't offer their best work, as both Amy Adams (as Lois Lane) and Michael Shannon as Zod are given very little by the script, particularly Adams, who is given a Lois less ballsy and more damsel-in-distress, while Shannon just never quite gets to grips with the role of Zod, the arch villain who the actor is more than capable of swallowed up by the weak screenplay.

However, Henry Cavill is a perfect Superman for the 21st century, less red and blue boy scout and more aware of the world around him and the impact his appearance will have on it.

The script makes passing mention of how his loyalties are torn between earth and

WHAT'S ON...

Tax advice

THE next income tax surgery to offer free professional help and advice to those with tax queries will be held at Pencoed Library on Thursday, July 18.

To book an appointment, telephone 0845 6013321.

Opera delights

A MIDSUMMER Music fundraising event for George Thomas Hospice, a major provider of specialist palliative care to those suffering cancer and other life threatening illnesses in Cardiff, takes place on Friday, June 28 at Cottrell Park Golf Club.

Opera Delights starts at 7pm with a reception, followed by a two-course meal and coffee. Some of Wales' best opera singers will sing light opera and West End standards.

For tickets, contact the hospice on 02920 524150.

Breast Cancer strawberry tea

THE public are urged to host a strawberry tea party for Breast Cancer Care Cymru this summer - to help support the 2,600 people diagnosed with breast cancer each year in Wales.

A spokeswoman, Charlotte Corsan, explained: "All you need to do is buy or bake some cakes, add some straw-

berries, put the kettle on and away you go! It doesn't matter if you raise £20 or £200 because every penny counts."

Register for a free Strawberry Tea fundraising pack at www.breastcancercare.org.uk/strawberry or call 0870 164 9422.

Brass Band

AS last year's visit to Fecamp in Normandy by the Vale of Glamorgan Brass Band was such a success, they were pleased to be invited to visit again this year. As the Vale is twinned with Fecamp, the band consider it an honour to be asked to be representatives at the annual festival.

The band will be leaving Barry early on Friday June 21 and returning very late on Sunday 23, tired but happy.

Fibromyalgia support

THE Fibromyalgia support group south Wales, will hold a meeting on the third Wednesday of each month in Nolton Church Hall, Bridgend, 12pm-2pm.

Sufferers, carers and family are all welcome for friendly advice and a chat.

Contact Yvonne (01639 681468) or email singletonyvonne@gmail.com



Taff Valley Buggy Trail

Archery, Clay Pigeon Shooting, Weekend Activity breaks Families, Youth Clubs, Schools, Age 7+ Pontypridd, nr Cardiff (029) 2083 1658 www.adventurewales.co.uk Prices from £18



Art Society welcomes artist

ON Thursday, June 27, Cowbridge Art Society welcomes local artist Peter Cronin (see www.petercronin.org) who will lead a practical sketching session.

The society meets on Thursday evenings at the Old Hall, Cowbridge from 7pm to 9pm.

Visitors are most welcome. For details of the society's activities see www.cowbridgeartsociety.com.

It's all happening... Llantwit Major's Victorian Fair Day

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New stalls to see... SAME DAY Saturday 22nd June Llantwit Hall (behind the library) 10.00am - 3pm

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Enquiries, contact Peta Shields E: peta.shields@gmail.com

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Out and About with The GEM



Ty Hafan dads battle the weather on 'Two Peaks'

A GROUP of Ty Hafan dads were among 200 intrepid fundraisers to complete the GE Aviation Wales Welsh3peaks challenge, which turned into the 2peaks challenge due to the unpredictable Welsh weather, in less than 10 hours on Saturday, June 15.

Unfortunately due to the severe

weather conditions, the decision was made not to climb Snowdon to ensure the safety of participants.

Among those taking part were Bradley Watson, Angelo Pucella from Bridgend, Gary Footman, Matthew Smith, Hywel Tyler and Andrew Davies, who all share the experience of being supported by Ty Hafan.

Matthew Smith's four-year-old son, Lewis, suffers from Tuberous Sclerosis and was referred to Ty

Hafan over three years.

"It was a huge challenge but I'm so pleased we did it," said Matthew, of Llantwit Fardre. "We are all exhausted now but are so proud of what we've achieved."

"It has been a great way to show our appreciation for the amazing team at Ty Hafan and we'll be continuing with our fundraising efforts over the coming months."

Roy Noble to interview Penarth war veteran

THE Cowbridge Book Festival is delighted to be launching *Men I Have Known*, the latest book by award-winning local author Eileen Youngusband.

On her 92nd birthday, Eileen and popular BBC personality Roy Noble will talk about her latest book and her extraordinary life.

With a long life packed with remarkable memories – from sound-

ing the alert for the first V2 rocket attack on London to the array of famous men she has met, it's little wonder that Eileen has been a popular guest on the Breakfast News and The One Show, in recent months.

Eileen's new book is a lighthearted and fascinating sequel to her acclaimed wartime autobiography, *One Woman's War*.

She charts her 92 years, from the 1920s to the present day, through the truly extraordinary

RIGHT: Eileen Youngusband

men she has met, giving a unique, intimate and personal perspective on some of the most influential men of the twentieth century.

She writes about Winston Churchill, Augustus John, Rex Harrison, Dylan Thomas and even Idi Amin!

One thing is certain – Roy Noble will have plenty of fascinating material to draw from for what promises to be a lively and entertaining



interview.

All proceeds from this event will be donated to The Noah's Ark Appeal, Children's Hospital of Wales and Leukemia & Lymphoma Research.

For further information, including more detail on this book, visit the festival website www.cowbridgebookfestival.co.uk.

Men I Have Known is being presented at the Cowbridge United Free Church on July 4 at 2.30pm.

Tickets are available from David Barnes (Dry cleaners) 35 High Street, Cowbridge; Nickleby's, Pound Field, Llantwit Major; or online from TicketlineUK 02920 230130 or phone Stella Cheeseman 01446 774827. **SRC**

Ty Hafan lottery winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number 779.

● £2,000: 152709.
● The rollover, which now stands at £2,000, was won by 826904.
● £10: 186042, 211562, 440480, 943380, 442726, 604591, 714113, 322426, 549432, 539591, 602666, 486885, 433024, 352222, 473459, 216347, 401928, 373456.
● £5: 719606, 231748, 600047, 267545, 235702, 347517, 192684, 212149, 560374, 175179, 335731, 274105, 527732, 133645, 476263,

111610, 463848, 667885, 269506, 287257, 230773, 551582, 538413, 118637, 195225, 351436, 881426, 457477, 494253, 771245, 288903, 440817, 381546, 517919, 768858, 252125, 451472, 139951, 350830, 529381, 268271, 548994, 549878, 221045, 784555, 467399, 118073, 158577, 106301, 545711, 639456, 793137, 319583, 626424, 125514, 656724, 225949, 624809, 255526, 869655.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300.

What's on, and where?

Cavatina concert

THE cabaret ensemble, All That Malarkey, will be the special guests at Cavatina Singers' next concert, Strawberry Soiree, on Saturday, June 29, at 3pm at All Saints' Church, Victoria Square, Penarth.

The programme of light music by Cavatina and entertainment by the ensemble will be followed by a strawberry and cream tea.

Call 02920 512054, and further details can be obtained from Anne Birt on 07976 646375 or annebirt52@icloud.com

The event will be on the Cancer Research website at the beginning of July.

Charity night for Wales Air Ambulance

A FUNDRAISING night is being held in aid of the Wales Air Ambulance at Market Street Social Club, Barry on Saturday, June 22 from 7.30pm with live music from Danette soul band, playing all the favourite soul music,

plus a disco and buffet.

The Wales Air Ambulance is a registered charity providing a vital service throughout the whole of Wales.

As a charity, it relies completely on the generosity of the Welsh public to keep the helicopters airborne and saving lives.

Tickets are £10. To get tickets, or for more information about this event, contact Sue Vincent on 07776 410008.

We hope people will support an event that seeks to support a vital service for Wales.

Jenny Williams

Child safety highlighted

THE Vale Council's Flying Start team is hosting an event to raise awareness of how to prevent serious accidents, as part of Child Safety Week on June 25 from 10am-3pm, on King Square, Holt Road, Barry.

Flying Start safety officer, Claire Haydon, said: "Every day, thousands of children attend A&E as a result of a preventable injury."

"This event is crucial, as we want to support parents make small steps

to safety as part of their everyday lives."

Tax advice at Seniors' Shop

DO you need advice or guidance on your tax? Age Concern Cardiff and Vale is holding a free tax advice surgery at the Senior Health Shop, Holt Road, Barry on Monday, June 24, 9.30am to 11.30am.

A qualified tax adviser will be able to help and answer questions on any issues related to tax.

No appointment is needed.

Age Concern's health club

AGE Concern Cardiff and Vale is holding a

free health and diet club at the Senior Health Shop Holt Road, Barry.

This is held at the Senior Health Shop monthly, where you can obtain advice and information on a healthy diet and also get a free health check.

The class has been very successful and many members have lost weight.

The next session will be held on Wednesday, June 26 from 11.15am to 12 noon.

For further information or details contact 01446 732385, or just come along on the morning.

Nearly new sale for 'Milk mates'

BARRY Milk Mates, a volunteer group supporting breastfeeding mums in and around Barry, are holding a nearly new sale 2pm - 4pm Sunday, June 23, at 10th Barry Guide Hall, Romilly Road,

Barry. Baby, toddler and other assorted items will be on sale. There will also be tea/coffee, home-made cakes and ice-cream on sale. 50p adult entry and kids are free.

If you wish to sell (£6/table) contact Lynsey on 07903 821063 or 01446 721026.

Cresta Coaches Day Trips for 2013

Date	Day	Destination	Adult Fare	OAP/Child
22/06/2013	Saturday	Stratford Upon Avon	£12.95	£11.95
06/07/2013	Saturday	Wye Valley & Chepstow	£11.00	£10.00
24/07/2013	Wednesday	Royal Welsh Show (Coach Only)	£12.00	£11.00
25/07/2013	Thursday	Cotswolds Villages - Day Trip	£11.95	£10.95
27/07/2013	Saturday	Weston Super Mare	£12.00	£11.00
03/08/2013	Saturday	Windsor	£14.00	£13.00
06/08/2013	Tuesday	Moreton in the Marsh 'Cotswolds'	£11.00	£10.00
11/08/2013	Sunday	Oakwood Park or Folly Farm (Coach Only)	£9.50	£8.50
13/08/2013	Tuesday	West Midlands Safari (Coach Only)	£14.50	£13.50
17/08/2013	Saturday	Wells & Burnham on Sea	£11.50	£10.95
25/08/2013	Sunday	Drayton Manor (Coach Only)	£15.00	£13.00
31/08/2013	Saturday	Tenby & Saundersfoot	£10.95	£10.00
11/09/2013	Wednesday	Cardiff Market & Tenby	£ 9.50	£ 9.00
21/09/2013	Saturday	Bicester, Oxfordshire	£14.00	£13.00
12/10/2013	Saturday	Tewksbury & Ross on Wye 'Labels'	£11.50	£10.50
26/10/2013	Saturday	Stratford Upon Avon (Early Xmas Shopper)	£12.95	£11.95
23/11/2013	Saturday	Cheltenham Christmas Shopper	£11.50	£11.00
30/11/2013	Saturday	Worcester Victorian Christmas Fayre	£13.75	£13.00
TBA	Await Date	Caerphilly Medieval Xmas Fayre	TBA	TBA
08/12/2013	Sunday	Bath Christmas Market	£13.75	£12.75
22/12/2013	Sunday	London Xmas Shopping & Sights	£20.00	£19.00

Minimum passenger numbers are required, therefore early reservation is essential.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON OUR DAY TRIPS OR THE HIRE OF COACHES & MINI-BUSES CALL

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We can cater for you!
Buffets - menus now available.

RHOOSE may have a geographical claim to fame – being the most southerly point on mainland Wales – but the real story is its amazing wealth of services and businesses.

Few people know the village as well as Coun Jeff James who has represented it on the Vale Council for many years and is keen to stress the myriad advantages to living on the Heritage Coast.

"Rhoose has a great deal to offer residents and visitors alike. "The village combines an attractive coast with easy access and a range of commercial and locally run businesses."

"There's a great range of shops which

are open for long hours as well as a chemist, optician, post office, travel agent, butcher, estate agent, barber, hairdresser, beauty providers and a place to enjoy a coffee.

"As well as its natural beauty Rhoose now has the nature reserve at Rhoose Point and lovely walks including the coastal path.

"There are good travel options and you have the choice of first class fish and chips, excellent Indian food, Chinese food as well as a range of pubs and clubs to slake your thirst."

Coun James added: "For coast, country and community living, Rhoose has it all!"

Can this really be true? It certainly is!

Rhoose has an international airport, a train station, and Fontygary Leisure Park with state-of-the-art facilities and

magnificent views across the Bristol Channel to the Somerset coast.

Great restaurants

For evenings out, people from the Vale and visiting tourists are spoilt.

The local pubs and restaurants offer great value for money and service.

At a time when many pubs and restaurants are closing local establishments such as the Ocean Lounge, the Fontygary Inn and the Six Bells continue to thrive because they offer such good value for money, combined with a friendly service.

An illustration of the go-ahead nature of local pub-restaurants is The Highwayman.

The owner Derek Gaynor explained: "Some pubs may be closing but we're expanding! We've got planning to open a new 60-seater restaurant at The Highwayman and work will begin some time after November 1. "We've got to do this

because the demand is so great – my partner Wayne Morgan does such a fantastic job with the cooking. People simply love the menus. "The food is freshly cooked and the dishes are home-made under Wayne's supervision."

The restaurant will occupy what is currently the office space for The Highwayman's security car park business.

Derek and Wayne are also replicating their success at their pub-restaurant the Caeffratic in Bridgend which has re-opened this week with The Highwayman's celebrated lunch menu and popular over-60s menu being introduced.

Hair and beauty

Rhoose also happens to be an oasis for hair and beauty treatments with a number of salons and hairdressers that serve people not just from the village, but from across the Vale.

**CONTINUED
ON PAGE 20**



Glenys of Coffee Time in the centre of Rhoose always gives local people and tourists a warm welcome.

Posh Pawz celebrates its first anniversary



Kath and Jo of Posh Pawz Salon and Spa celebrated their first anniversary this month.

LOCAL people have confidence in community support for business ventures and one company celebrating its first anniversary is Posh Pawz run by Kathryn Johnson and Jo Greenough.

Both ladies are dog lovers and noticed that there was no grooming service for the people of Rhoose in the centre of the village. Kathryn explained: "We've got a convenient location for customers in the heart of the village with convenient parking. "We provide a safe, secure and happy environment for dogs."

Jo added: "We do 'freshen up baths' to full spa treatments. There's also ear plucking, nail clipping and gland expressing included in a full groom."

To book an appointment, either call in, or phone Kath or Jo on 01446 710044.

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RHOOSE ... a charming village in the Vale!

RHOOSE HAS IT ALL!



Barratts Fine Meats is the popular butcher's store in the centre of the village...



LEFT: ...and Lyn of Barratts offers the customers a great, friendly service.



ABOVE: The social club plays an important role in the local community.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

Bay Hair and Beauty, Sublime Hair and Beauty, Bar Buzz, Deanos Barber's Shop and Tan-y-Hyde have all developed excellent reputations.

Activities

One of the perennial complaints of some smaller communities is the lack of activities for young people – not so in Rhooose!

There are two popular Brownie packs, the Guides and Scouts, junior lifeguards, an ama-

teur boxing club, a junior football pitch, a children's play centre, ballet sessions and a youth centre open for those aged 11 and upwards on Monday and Wednesday nights.

Continuing the young people's theme there is also Passport to Play which offers quality of care for those aged six weeks old to seven years old.

Adults are well catered for in terms of activities with the community centre, zumba dancing, a Slimming World group, a Derby and Joan Club, the WI, bingo, a Friday Club, the bowls' club and tennis courts.

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RHOOSE ... a charming village in the Vale!

PARTNERSHIP PLAN AIMS TO IMPROVE SHOPPING AREA



ABOVE: Matthew Barratt, Coun Jeff James and Jane Williams, senior rural regeneration officer at Creative Rural Communities.

A Rhooose councillor believes that a partnership of local businesses, the Vale Council and Creative Rural Communities can improve the shopping area in the centre of the village.

Coun Jeff James told The GEM: "I have met with most of the business owners in the main shopping area of Rhooose about improving the areas in front of their shops and premises."

Creative Rural Communities has been offered a sum of money

from the Tidy Towns initiative that can be used towards a 'Pride in our Villages' grant application from CRC to fund planters and benches.

Coun James explained: "Working with those owners and the Vale Council I am hoping to see an improvement in the pedestrian surfaces, but my real ambition is to see a regeneration project similar to the one in Llantwit Major."

The project in Llantwit Major transformed the shopping area along Boverton Road.

Coun James said that a crucial step in improving the environment would be to obtain estimates for upgrading the pavements, followed by drawing up a scheme that would be the basis of a bid for a grant.

Earlier this week a number of interested parties held a meeting in the village.

Coun James explained: "Working closely with Jane Williams from Creative Rural Communities and Matthew Barratt, Lester Aldred, and other business people representing Spar, Deanos, Coffee Time, Premier Store, Posh Pawz, and others, I believe there is a strong will to get things moving."

The aim of getting funding to improve the pedestrian surfaces is complicated due to the fact that parts of the pavement are owned by both businesses and the local authority.

In the past Creative Rural Communities has supported a number of projects in Rhooose, including ones at the Celtic Way Centre and Rhooose Community Centre.

A FAMILY PUB FOR ALL THE FAMILY

KERRY and Kevin Eade are now in their seventh year running the Fontygary Inn, a friendly family-run family pub and restaurant.

They are enthusiastic, and continually looking to improve the food and facilities to meet the popular demand of their regular clients and visitors to the area.

Regular entertainment nights and the introduction of new dishes and menus with more home-cooked meals than ever are just some of the improvements that the locals are enjoying.

An enclosed children's play area and sunny beer garden makes this a family friendly pub for all.

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Lifeguards head abroad

FOUR members of Rhooose Lifeguards Club will be representing Wales at the Atlantic Games to be held at Viana Do Castelo, Portugal between July 15-19.

Since its creation in Brittany in 1995, the objective of the Atlantic Games is to gather every year for a week of competition, delegations of young athletes from all the Atlantic regions of Europe. More than 14 Atlantic countries or regions take part in the Atlantic Games.

William Parker, Sara Phillips, Lauren Blake and Kathryn Gardner were chosen from a recent 'ranking' event held at Aberavon beach.

They will be competing as part of the SLISA Wales team in the under 19s surf lifesaving competition events.

Last year, Wales won the surf lifesaving section and achieved third place overall - William, Sara, Lauren and Kathryn from Rhooose Lifeguards are looking forward to the experience and competing at a European level.

In September, four of



Atlantic Games team competitors Lauren, Kathryn, Sara and William.

the Rhooose members will be going even further afield to compete.

Lauren Blake, Kathryn Gardner, Rhys Perry and Charles Grandfield have been selected as part of the Welsh RLSS (Royal Lifesaving Society) Commonwealth Team to compete in the RLSS Commonwealth Championships to be held in Canberra, Australia.

Being selected at this level is an excellent achievement, and Rhooose Lifeguards are very proud of William, Sara, Lauren, Kathryn, Rhys and Charles for all their hard work. The club would like to thank as always, all of the members who attended the recent rankings and the parents and helpers who help and support the club at these events.

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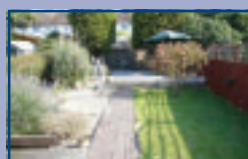
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**North Walk - £112,950**

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**Heol Fioled - £244,950**

Four bedroom detached residence situated on the popular Pencoedre Village development within the East end of Barry. Hallway. Lounge. Dining Room. Kitchen/Breakfast Room. Study. Downstairs Cloakroom. Family Bathroom and En suite shower room to Master Bedroom. UPVC DG. GCH. Double garage. Enclosed rear garden.
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**Clos Y Fulfran - £215,000**

Immaculately presented extended three bedroom, three storey residence. Entrance hallway. Kitchen. Dining Room. Lounge. Downstairs w/c. Family bathroom. 2 en suites. UPVC DG. GCH. Enclosed rear garden. Driveway. Garage.
EPC RATING: C

**Elmhurst - £495,000**

Detached character property sited in Porthkerry Village. Rarely to the market. The Old School was built in 1871. Comprising: Porch. Family room. Lounge. Kitchen. Dining room. Ground floor family bathroom. Three bedrooms, study/cot room and w/c to the first floor. Enclosed gardens. Garage/workshop. EPC rating: E. NO CHAIN. MUST VIEW TO APPRECIATE THE CHARACTER OF THE PROPERTY.

**Porth y Castell - £425,000**

Four bedroom detached residence with panoramic sea views situated on the Garden Suburbs. Hallway. Cloakroom. Study. Lounge. Dining room. Summer room. Kitchen. Bathroom. UPVC DG. GCH. Enclosed gardens. Driveway. Garage.

**Lewis Street - £124,995**

Three bedroom mid terrace property situated in the West End of Barry. In need of some updating. Accommodation comprising: Porch. Hallway. Downstairs w/c. Lounge/dining room. Second reception area. Kitchen. Bathroom. Enclosed rear garden and forecourt.
NO CHAIN

**St Osyth Court - £154,995**

Two double bedroom semi detached bungalow. Panoramic views. Hallway. Lounge. Kitchen. Bathroom. Separate w/c. Low maintenance enclosed small garden. UPVC DG. Gas central heating.

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**Gladstone Road - £145,950**

Three bedroom, bay fronted, mid terrace property. Hallway. Lounge through dining room. Kitchen. Family bathroom to first floor. UPVC DG. GCH. Enclosed rear garden. Garage. Property benefits from original features including coving, tiling and balustrade. EPC rating: D.

**Victoria Road - £134,950**

Three bedroom mid terrace property. Hallway. Lounge. Sitting room. Dining room. Kitchen. Bathroom to first floor. UPVC DG. Gas central heating. Enclosed rear garden and forecourt. EPC rating D/D.
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**Howard Court - £99,995**

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**Westward Rise - £345,000**

Four double bedroom family home. Hallway. Lounge. Dining room. Conservatory. Family room. Downstairs w/c. Kitchen/breakfast room. Enclosed garden and double garage. Utility room. Ensuite shower room. Family bathroom.
OFFERED FOR SALE WITH NO CHAIN

**Y Cerigios - £269,000**

Three double bedroom ground floor apartment. Entrance hallway. Open plan Lounge/Dining Room/Modern kitchen. Ensuite Shower room. Family bathroom. Two allocated parking spaces. GCH. Sea views.
OFFERED FOR SALE WITH NO CHAIN

**Fern Drive - £129,500**

Three bedroom semi detached property. Hallway. Lounge/Diner. Kitchen/Breakfast room. Shower room to first floor. DG. GCH. Gardens to front and rear. Driveway. Single garage.
EPC RATING D
OFFERED FOR SALE WITH NO CHAIN

**Glamorgan Street - £117,500**

Traditional three bedroom mid terrace property situated in West End of Barry. Porch. Lounge/dining room. Kitchen. Ground floor bathroom. First floor w/c. Enclosed rear garden and forecourt.
GCH. UPVC DG.

**'Davlan' Claude Road - £209,950**

Three bedroom semi detached residence set on a generous plot. Entrance hallway. Lounge. Kitchen/dining room. Summer room. UPVC DG. GCH. Single garage and driveway. Gardens to front and rear. EPC rating C.
OFFERED FOR SALE WITH NO CHAIN

**Paget Heights - £109,950**

One bedroom first floor newly renovated apartment. Finished to a high standard. Modern kitchen fully equipped with appliances. Luxury Bathroom with shower. Carpeted throughout. Fully double glazed. Allocated parking space for each apartment.

**Paget Heights - £159,950**

Second floor two bedroom newly renovated apartment with mezzanine floor. Finished to a high standard. Modern kitchen fully equipped with appliances. Luxury Bathroom with shower. Carpeted throughout. Fully double glazed. Allocated parking space for each apartment.

**Romilly Park Road - £650,000**

West End 5 bedroom residence. Entrance hallway. lounge, dining room, kitchen/breakfast room with utility area, cloakroom, gallery landing. Five bedrooms include two en suites and family bathroom. Generous, enclosed rear garden. Balconies and terrace overlooking Romilly Park. EPC rating C.

**Woodlands Road - £144,950**

Three bedroom traditional bay fronted property. Porch. Hallway. Lounge. Snug/office. Dining room. Kitchen. Downstairs w/c. First floor bathroom. UPVC DG. GCH. Enclosed rear garden and low maintenance forecourt.
EPC rating D/D.
OFFERED FOR SALE WITH NO CHAIN

**Glen Mavis Way - £194,950**

Three bedroom detached property. Lounge. Dining room. Kitchen. Conservatory. Family bathroom. Separate w/c. GCH. DG. Enclosed rear garden. Detached single garage. Driveway providing off road parking for numerous vehicles. Viewing recommended.
EPC rating D/D.

**Blenheim Close - £234,950**

Three bedroom detached true bungalow set on a corner plot. Entrance porch. Hallway. Lounge/dining room. Modern fitted kitchen. Conservatory. Three bedrooms. Modern fitted bathroom. GCH. Majority UPVC DG. Enclosed gardens to front, side and rear. Driveway leading to garage. EPC rating D/D

**Min y Mor - £245,950**

Three bedroom semi detached property. Garden Suburbs West End Barry Views across Barry and partial views of the Bristol Channel. Two reception rooms, kitchen, utility area, downstairs w/c, conservatory. Bedrooms bathroom and separate w/c to the first floor. GCH. UPVC DG. South westerly facing garden. Driveway. Double garage. EPC rating D.

**Birchgrove - £309,950**

Extended three bedroom semi detached property. Hallway. Family room. Lounge. Dining room. Kitchen. Utility/downstairs w/c. Family bathroom and separate w/c. UPVC DG. GCH. Enclosed front, side and rear gardens. Driveway leading to detached single garage.
EPC rating D

COMMERCIAL

**Lombard Street - £5,000 p.a**

Recently refurbished suite of offices set over two floors, situated off Holton Road throughfare. Barry's main shopping centre. Total floor area approximately 94m/1015ft. Security roller shutter to front window. Porch. Two offices to ground floor. Kitchen, Ladies and Gents toilet facilities and two further offices/training rooms to first floor. Rear yard.

**Holton Road - £99,950**

Ground floor shop unit with security roller shutter door. Lounge and kitchen to the ground floor. Three bedrooms and bathroom to the first floor. GCH via combi boiler. UPVC DG. Enclosed low maintenance rear garden.

**Aberthaw Guest House - £399,950**

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RECENTLY, the Vale Council commissioned a consultants' report into the main town centres in the Vale – and the section devoted to Cowbridge makes very interesting reading, because it contained one startling fact.

At a time when town centres all around the UK are widely reported to be in trouble – prompting David Cameron to send retail guru Mary Portas on a mission to tackle the problem – it seems that Cowbridge is bucking the trend.

The report compared the amount of retail floorspace in the town in 2007 and five years later in 2012, and found hardly any difference (6,570sq metre in 2007, and 6,488sq metre in 2012).

What is more, the overall floorspace devoted to business in

BY PHILIP IRWIN

general had increased (from 12,529 to 13,613) – and vacant space fell over that period as well.

Considering that five years ago the predictions were all doom and gloom, it is quite a remarkable achievement. Back then, out of town malls were supposed to be the future, and internet shopping was the big threat.

Now, while online shopping is still there, the malls seem less buoyant, and it is not difficult to find empty units when you stroll around one of these 'shopping cathedrals'.

How do you explain the way Cowbridge has performed? Remember that in 2008, the economic downturn really started to bite, so there has been no country-wide 'feelgood factor' to give the town a boost.

Well, the main reason has to be that Cowbridge is simply



ABOVE: The Old Hall Gardens (Photo by Mike Wilcock).

such a good place to visit.

It has plenty of history, but also has the feel of a town that is lively, with people coming and going all day long and living in the present.

The main high street – almost a mile long – has a buzz about it, with shops, pubs, restaurants, cafes, banks and building societies, but then you can walk 50 yards off that main street and find peaceful and attractive areas to relax.

The GEM, of course, has its office in Cowbridge and I find

that even now after 12 years in the town, I can wander off the main street and notice things – perhaps an ivy-covered building or a quiet courtyard – that I had never noticed before.

You can take a break and stroll through Poplar Park – just across the river from Waitrose – and feel a long way from the hustle and bustle of a town.

Alternatively, you walk along Church Street, where you can take a good look at Holy Cross Church, see

the Old Grammar School edifice (now converted into apartments) or wander into the remarkable Physic Garden, which a few years ago was just an overgrown patch of land.

The creation of the Physic Garden, driven by a committed group of local volunteers, is just one example of how the community has been proactive in constantly refining and improving the town.

CONTINUED
ON PAGE 25

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Summer Update...

The Vale's market town



CONTINUED
FROM PAGE 24

That consultants' report, after detailing all Cowbridge's strengths, came to the conclusion that the town should be 'branded' as 'Destination Cowbridge' – and this conclusion has been welcomed by Creative Rural Communities (CRC), an arm of the Vale Council that looks to find ways to boost economic and social activity in the rural Vale.

The Cowbridge-based staff have been funding a variety of rural projects for some time now, and they felt that the report was pointing in

the right direction.

Rebecca Haves of CRC said that a grant of £20,000 had recently been allocated to Cowbridge, and that this would be used to improve signage in and around the town. She said that there was work to do to counter the impression that some people had of Cowbridge as an upmarket destination.

She said that it was important to get across that Cowbridge has a full range of shops and businesses, with something to appeal to all pockets. CRC feel that

Cowbridge can take advantage of general tourism in the area, and they have noted that visitors coming to



ABOVE: Cowbridge High Street in the sunshine.
ABOVE LEFT: The Physic Garden, viewed from Holy Cross Church.

(Photographs by Mike Wilcock).

BELOW: Alfresco dining in the town.



events in Cardiff often choose to stay in the town.

She added: "One thing we have noted is that Cowbridge could do with more budget accommodation for visitors, but this is being addressed."

"Penlyn Estates are close to finishing 12 good quality bunkhouses, which would be ideal for people on walking holidays, for instance."

"There would, of course, be a benefit to the town, because guests there would go out on walks during the day, and then stroll into Cowbridge in the evening to eat and relax."

The chairman of Cowbridge Chamber of Trade, Alun John, told The GEM that his

members had done well in what were clearly difficult times.

He said an active chamber of trade, working together to keep people coming to the town had been an important factor, with events such as the Reindeer Parade a major element.

He said that Caroline Rich of Top Shop had recently given a talk to the chamber, and this had helped focus traders' views on future activities.

At a time when town centres are more valued than ever – because so many are under threat – Cowbridge has kept the faith and is showing how it should be done.

Shopping is more

than just spending money. It offers a chance to reconnect with life as it should be, and you can keep a community alive at the same time.

After all, nobody is ever going to get sentimental about a shopping mall.

SEE MORE ON
COWBRIDGE
ON PAGE 26

NEWS IN BRIEF

Charity opera evening for healthier hearts

SINGERS from the Welsh National Opera will be in Cowbridge soon, raising money for a heart charity.

Entitled 'Puccini and Prosecco' – the evening offers a glass of prosecco on arrival, followed by an Italian themed dinner, with artists from Welsh National Opera serenading guests during the evening.

The Bear Hotel Cowbridge, hosts the event on Monday, July 1, 7pm for 7.30pm.

Tickets are £29.50 each and proceeds go to 'Welsh Hearts', which supplies defibrillators and supports research into heart conditions and cardiomyopathy.

To book, contact The Bear Hotel on 01446 774814, Sharon Owen on 07730 944700 or email fundraising@welshhearts.org

Town shops show support to charity

BUSINESSES in Cowbridge have joined the fight against homelessness by supporting the charity Llamau in shops along the high street.

Shops taking part by keeping collection tins in-store include, Xantippe, Coco Plum, Jonlan, Visage and The Shop.

Frances Beecher, the chief executive of Llamau, said: "By highlighting the issues of many young people facing homelessness, these businesses are not only raising awareness of the problem within the community, but are able to reach out directly to the young people themselves

with the services we can offer them."

Look out for the red Llamau collection tins in shops in Cowbridge.

For more information about Llamau, visit www.llamau.org.uk

School fundraiser

WAITROSE in Cowbridge is hosting a cheese and wine evening to raise funds for Cowbridge Comprehensive School on Thursday, July 11, 6.30pm-8.30pm.

Tickets (£5) are available from Donna White at the school, on 01446 772311 or dwhite@cowbridgecomprehensiveschool.co.uk



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COWBRIDGE

Summer Update...

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COWBRIDGE

The sky is the limit for local artist Sue



Sue McDonagh with one of her portraits.

A COWBRIDGE-BASED artist, Sue McDonagh, is hoping that she will make the final cut in a new Sky Arts reality show, writes PHILIP IRWIN.

The show is looking to find a new star in the world of portrait painting – and the prize is a £10,000 commission to paint the best-selling novel-ist, Hilary Mantel.

An original entry of 2,000 has already been cut to 84 – so Sue is delighted to have made it this far. The next step is to join 20 other hopefuls at City Hall, Cardiff, on July 7 at one of four regional heats.

These will be filmed, and the next stop could then be the final, where the selected hopefuls will be taken to various locations and given a series of tests – before arriving at a winner.

Sue said: "To get to this stage, I had to send in images of three portraits, and one had to be a self-portrait. I didn't much enjoy doing that one!"

"The Cardiff heat lasts 12 hours, but the crux is a four-hour session where we have to do a portrait starting from scratch.

"We have been told that three sitters will be there – all well known – and I will be allocated one."

Doing a portrait on a strict timescale is a new experience for Sue. She said: "I normally take a series of photographs and sketches, then take my time over the finished product. If I don't like the way it is going, I can start again."

To prepare, friends are being lined up for a four-hour sitting to hone her technique. She said: "It would be great to make the final. We have been promised that we will be taken to glamorous locations as the final progresses, and we will also have the chance to work with an experienced mentor."

The Hilary Mantel commission, of course, would be the star prize, and that portrait will be hung in the National Gallery as well.

Sue has been based in the Old Wool Barn in Cowbridge for 20 years now, and has never regretted her move to the Vale. However, it is a big career change for someone who was a police officer in Essex. Sue said: "I had been in the police for just a year when I was diagnosed with ovarian cancer."

"It was a huge shock and I was lucky that it was diagnosed so early. During my recuperation I started painting and then, after going back to the police

for a short time after I recovered, I decided to move to the Vale and pursue a career as an artist."

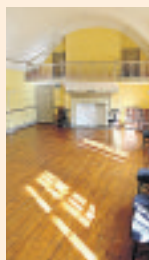
She moved to Llantwit Major and regards it as a great decision. Sue's van, painted up to highlight her artistic endeavours, is a regular sight at events in the Vale.

She said: "The recent Cowbridge May Fayre was fantastic. I had to go back to the Wool Barn to replenish my stocks."

So, July 7 in City Hall will be a big day for Sue. If all goes well, she could be making her TV debut when the series is broadcast on Sky Arts in the autumn!

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Penarth and District Ramblers

Walking to Wales's most southerly point

SIX walkers joined Joy, Bracken and Bronte on the village green at Porthkerry near St Curig's Church.

Heading west up the lane past Church Farm, they made their way to Porthkerry caravan park where back in 2011, there was a serious landslide on the cliffs, which meant a large number of caravans had to be moved away from the edge.

Making their way through the pleasant park they joined the Wales Coast Path and entered fields leading towards Rhose Point, passing through a small meadow, the only part of what is left of Happy Valley since the area was developed into a housing estate.

From the cliff top, the views towards the English coastline were hidden behind a mist and the Bristol Channel was dark grey with a choppy sea.

Climbing steps, they continued along the cliff top to reach the southernmost tip of mainland Wales, which is marked by a huge slab of rock that made the journey all the way from the northernmost tip of Anglesey to Rhose and is situated within a stone circle.

On this part of the coastline stood not only the limestone quarries which are now filled with water, making very pleasant lakes, but also a cement works which, towards the end of its working days, was owned by Blue Circle Cement in the 1980s.

With the full force of the strong wind blowing straight in their faces, the group continued past the disused quarries towards Pontygarny before turning full circle to walk eastwards

through the fields on their journey back towards Rhose Railway Station.

Crossing the small brook where the banks are covered with oxeye daisies, the group made their way back towards the quarries, dropping down behind the lake where the quarry floor was covered with the white flowers of wild strawberries and clumps of southern marsh orchid were spotted.

From the houses in the Rhose Point development they made their way uphill by road to reach Porthkerry Road, which they followed, passing Cardiff Airport before deviating back down a lane which led them back to Porthkerry village, just on the hour of nine.

On June 22, please note the programmed walk to Llangorse is cancelled, but instead meet 8.30am at Cogan for a 12-mile hard walk at Glasbury; contact Barrie on 029 2053 0753.

On June 23, meet 9am at Cogan Leisure Centre for an 11.5-mile hard walk at Sugar Loaf and Crug Mawr; contact Robin on 029 2051 4051.

On June 25, the midweek walk is a celebration 20-miles for the group's 20th anniversary, which will leave Cogan at 8am for a 20-mile hard trek on the Three Castles Walk; contact William on 01446 747239.

Wear suitable clothing, preferably boots and carry waterproofs, food and drinks. Some degree of fitness is required and if you are in any doubt, then please contact the walk leader for advice. To follow the group, log onto www.penarthramblers.wordpress.com

JOY STRANGWARD

Penarth Computer Club... looking forward to what the future brings

WHAT wonders are coming? A science fiction enthusiast in my younger days, I wanted to witness developments. I still do.

I was not much interested in fantasy, such as riding on dragons, but fascinated by the effect on people's lives as technological developments came along.

As mere humans, we are limited by our experiences. They limit our imagination.

Nevertheless, from time to time, someone has a flash of inspiration and things change for the better.

In 1849, after several stages of developing aids to calculation, Charles Babbage designed a machine to reduce the element of human error. He couldn't build it with available skills, but his ideas were proved correct in 1991.

In 1951, Alan Turing, the mathematics genius who was instrumental in wartime code-breaking, was saying that thinking machines would not take long to outperform the human brain.

Isaac Asimov in 1956 postulated the extreme power of computers in his story 'The Last

Question'.

Also in the 1950s, the progress of computing was boosted enormously by the adoption of the transistor. As of 2011, the number of transistors in a computer was over two billion. As we get better at the engineering of the very small, we are reducing the size, weight and cost of many products.

Not all of them respond to meet the initial ambition and become niche products for certain functions – personal jetpacks and hovercraft spring to mind.

There has been speculation that rockets into space are not the most energy efficient method, but that all the rocket scientists of the 50s and 60s grew up with stories about them and as rockets became possible, no-one looked for better ways.

Now the pace has warmed up, and we are at an interesting point where several new ideas are starting out. They have implications that are still being explored.

These things might be just coming to our notice, but have already spent several years growing from the original discovery towards being put to effective use.

Colour printers were

feared because of currency fraud. Science solved that one. Digital cameras spelt the doom of the 35mm film industry. Camera phones and iPads are making dedicated cameras a bit 'old hat'.

Google Glass is coming to a pair of spectacles near you. It remains to be seen (pardon the pun) if it will be taken up generally. Perhaps in

a couple of years it will be improved to a 'must have' status.

3D printers that can make solid objects by building up layers of material are in the news and we may have to learn to cope with them.

Watch out for graphene. It is 200 times stronger than steel, thinner than paper and a better electrical conductor than copper –

all combined with flexibility. You might be able to wear your computer. Can't wait!

Our next meeting is Tuesday, June 25 at All Saints Lesser Hall, Victoria Square, Penarth at 7.30pm with a fun quiz by Mike J. See penarthcomputerclub.co.uk.

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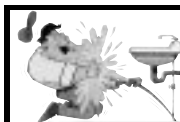
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Family Notices

RAFTI

Christina (Christalla)

With great sadness on 11th June at the University Hospital of Wales, Christina passed away, well known of The Royal Cafe, Barry Island. Devoted wife of the late Sotirios George Rafti, beloved mum of Despoulla, George, Erinoulla and Costa, cherished Yiayia of Alessandra and Christina.

Christina will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Resting at Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until her service at the Greek Orthodox Church, Bute Street, Cardiff on Monday 24th June at 12.00pm, followed by interment at Barry Cemetery. Flowers may be sent to the Funeral Home. Enquiries to Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service - 01446 407962.

WHITE

Arthur Henry

Suddenly at Llandough Hospital on June 4th, after a short illness, Arthur aged 80 years. Will be sadly missed by his family and friends both here in the UK and abroad.

Funeral Service at St Helen's RC Church, Barry on Thursday, 27th June at 11am, followed by interment at Barry Cemetery.

Floral Tributes to be sent to the Funeral Home, no lilies please by request. All enquiries to Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, 01446 407962.

BREWER Alfred (Alfie)

The family of the late Alfred (Alfie) wish to sincerely thank everyone who attended his recent funeral. It was greatly appreciated.

Thank you to Reverend Melanie Prince for conducting a lovely service and W James & Sons, Rhose for their professional service. Many thanks also for the messages of sympathy and cards received.

HOPKIN RVM

David Thomas

(Formerly of Shop Farm, St Brides Major)

Passed away peacefully on 12th June, David, adored husband of Barbara, loving father to Sharon and Tony, John and Myfanwy, Dyfrig and Julie, Mair and Colin. Devoted gramps to his eight grandchildren and four great grandchildren, he will be sadly missed.

Funeral Service at St Bridget's Church, St Brides Major on Thursday, 20th June at 2pm, followed by interment. Donations in lieu of flowers may be sent to Arthritis Research UK.

LEWIS

Douglas John

After a short illness, on June 14 at his home in Llantwit Major, surrounded by his family, Doug, beloved husband, father and gramp.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Ffônmon. Funeral strictly private.

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PARKER

Nicholas Simon (Nick)

Peacefully on 13th June at home, Guys Road, Barry, Nicholas Simon (Nick) aged 59 years, previously proprietor of PEE GEE Motor Bike Shop, Caerphilly. Dearly loved husband of Jaci, much loved dad of Anthony, dearest brother of Jane and Sarah.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry until the Funeral on Monday, 24th June. Funeral Service in the Chapel at 11.30am, afterwards cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road East, Barry at 12.45pm. Family flowers only, if desired, donations may be handed to the Funeral Director after the funeral for Cancer Care Marie Curie, Holme Tower, Bridgeman Road, Penarth.

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John leads ramblers along trail

ON Sunday, June 23, John Moore will be leading the first Nonagenarian Walk to be included in a Vale Ramblers programme.

We meet in Cowbridge Town Hall Car Park and at 9am will move on to the car park adjacent to the theatre and the end of the canal in Brecon for about 10am. There is a car park charge of 50p for up to 6 hours.

John has chosen a route that follows the Taff Trail for approximately 3.5 miles along the canal tow path as far as Stonehouse Bridge.

It then takes the road for about half a mile in to Llanfynachon, the foot path across the fields past Abercynrig Mill, through Gloscoed Woods, along the bank of the River Usk, past Christ College and over the bridge in to Brecon.

At 7.5 miles and with only 300 feet or so of climbing (and no styles) this is an easy but interesting walk. Both the



John Moore.

shorter views along the canal and the river and the longer views of the Brecons are lovely.

If you intend to go straight to the start of the walk in Brecon you please let either John Moore (01446 773076/07845 377709) or Bill Fawcett (01446 773405/07831 611524) know so that we can make sure that we meet up.

JM

New faces at law firm



G & W partners Anthony Taylor and Nigel Daniel at the new Cowbridge office

THE Cowbridge and Bridgend solicitors, Gaskell & Walker are bucking the economic trend and growing - both in staff numbers and in office accommodation.

Having recently moved their Cowbridge operations to larger offices above Nat West Bank on Westgate, they have recruited employment law expert Nigel Daniel and Kathryn Thompson, a probate, trusts and wills specialist.

The company was established in Cowbridge over 100 years ago. Maesteg-born Nigel was educated in Cowbridge Boys Grammar School. He

will head the firm's employment law department and has 20 years' experience in the legal sector. He has acted for members of all the main trades unions in the UK.

Originally from the Vale, Kathryn Thompson has joined from Co-operative Legal services in Bristol.

She said: "Returning to my home patch makes the prospect of reconnecting with the area and its people even more exciting for me." Gaskell & Walker partner, Gwyn Davies said: "We are very excited at the prospect of bringing an increased level of specialist expertise to clients of the firm."

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Busy start to season for Wenvoe Golf Club

AN exceptionally busy start to the new golfing season saw the new club captain, Barrie Jones, overseeing a major fundraising event in aid of the Poppy Factory and the On Course Foundation.

Both charities help wounded, injured or sick ex-servicemen and women into mainstream employment and the latter group through the world of golf.

The event over two days saw club member Stuart Finlay raising funds through sponsorship and completing an incredible 101 holes of golf on the first day.

Stuart was joined by Greg Stevenson, who lost both legs in an explosion in Afghanistan, but after

help and coaching through the charity, is now an ambassador, playing off a remarkable 18 handicap after just 18 months. A truly inspirational young man doing such good work for his colleagues in the Services, and club members applauded his contribution to the fundraising efforts.

The second day included a 'shotgun start' four ball competition with nearly 100 competitors taking part, and after a well-earned meal and drink, still had the energy to raise their hands and bid in the charity auction. The total funds raised exceeded £6,000 and the real winners were the two charities and development of junior golf at the club.

Soon to follow was the well-supported captain's inaugural ball, tradition-

ally the start of the busy social calendar, giving the members and guests the chance to sample the delights served up by chef David Reis, and they weren't disappointed. Traditional toasts were followed by short, but quality speeches with an eye on the clock as there was another club competition early in the morning.

The golfing season was well underway and despite a cold spring, the green staff under head greenkeeper Mark Wilshire had brought the course into magnificent condition, receiving justifiable accolades from members and visitors alike.

The golf course is now simply stunning and a delight to walk, let alone play.

Throughout May, there were a wide variety of club competitions, with some winners delighted to know their names would soon be in gold leaf on the various honours boards.

Visitors were welcomed to the popular mixed open day and then a hugely successful ladies' open day. Both events were well organised by the lady captain, Sheila Morrow, and the ladies' section.

The kind weather has

meant no interruption to the weekly golfing programme with the seniors playing on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Tuesday evenings is the time for the higher handicaps to enjoy competitions with the Conies, and Thursday evenings provide for the regular merit table for players of all levels.

The ladies' section has a mixture of competitive and social golf throughout the week enjoying a significant and welcome increase in membership.

Weekends are becoming increasingly busy, particularly in the mornings, and to such an extent that new midweek membership packages have been introduced to encourage those who want to play just on weekdays.

Importantly, the club is encouraging junior golfers to take up the game and is working with Golf Development Wales as part of a New2Golf membership scheme.

The club's coaching academy has already received the National Junior Accreditation Award for its work with young golfers, and the club is also working with local schools to further develop the opportunity to take up the game at an early age.

New2Golf is not just for youngsters, as the club has also begun more sessions for lady golfers who are interested in playing golf, particularly for health and fitness, and possibly a change in lifestyle. A special membership has been introduced as a taster for up to 12 months with special arrangement for tuition with the club professional, Jason Harris.

If you are interested, contact Jason on 02920 593649 or Nicola on 02920 594371 for further details.

Summary of the results in the major competitions:

Open days: ladies open mixed greensome foursomes, Sunday May 18 - First, visitors' prize,



The Wenvoe ladies winning first prize in the ladies' open day, each with a jewellery box presented by lady captain Sheila Morrow (left to right): Karen Ball, Sheila Davies, Sheila Morrow and Sue Dayananda.

John and Brenda Leaver (Celtic Manor/Newport GC), 40 points; second, John Jones and Angela Thomas Jones (Mond Valley GC), 39 points.

Wenvoe Castle Prize - First, Delyth Thomas and Alan Stephenson, 42 points; second, Dean Bickle and Debra J Jones, 39 points.

Ladies' open, Friday, May 31 - First, visitors' prize, Zena Jackson, Nita Evans and Val Evans (Vale GC), 91 points; second, Rita Howells, Thea Howells and Dee Watkins (Vale GC), 84 points.

Wenvoe Castle Prize - First, Sheila Davies, Sue Dayananda and Karen Ball, 83 points; second, Barbara Beedham, Helen Hughes and Tina Church, 81 points.

Mixed competitions: H Broadbent Trophy, mixed foursomes medal - winners, Dr Dai and Sue Dayananda, Net 71.

Vaughan Thompson mixed Stableford - winners, Gordon and Sue Macpherson, 39 points.

Men's individual competitions: Coronation Cup (par competition) - winner, Jeff Pleyev +3; runner-up, Andy Taylor, +2.

Celnick Cup - winner, Nicholas Breen, 41 points; runner-up, Darren Jefferies, 41 points.

Ladies' competitions: Tegwen Perkins stableford - winner, Samantha Case, 41 points; runner-up, Margaret Lewis, 36 points.



Club captain Barrie Jones (centre) presenting the prize to the winners of the H Broadbent Trophy, Dr Dai and Sue Dayananda.



Marathon golfer Stuart Finlay (left) with Greg Stevenson.

JOHN IS MOURNED...

WELSH horse racing is mourning the death of race horse owner and company chairman John Ayres, who has died after a courageous battle with cancer.

John, an unassuming man, who was co-founder and chairman of Finest Brands International, Champion Manufacturing Ltd and John Ayres Import/Export, owned a number of point-to-pointers over the years and enthusiasts in the Vale will remember his *Majetta Crescent*, a prolific winner between-the-flags and under rules, and *Warren Boy*, which was trained by his long-time friend, former amateur rider Tim Jones.

Perhaps the best horse he owned under rules was *Victory Gunner*, who won several regional 'Grand Nationals' and who was still winning races at the age of 15.

John, who also had a saddlery shop in the Rumney area of Cardiff, leaves behind a widow Bridget and two daughters, Sarah Jane and Charlotte.

John was still working at his Coedkernew, Newport, racing stables up until a day or two before his death, and just hours before he died was reading the Racing Post.

John's wishes was that his memorial service should be at his local and favourite racecourse - Chepstow - and it will take place there on June 21 at 1.30pm. It should be a fitting tribute to a much loved and respected man whose premature death (he was just 60) will be a big loss to the equestrian industry and to jump racing.

Messages of condolence to the family can be sent to Fern Morgan, Chepstow Racecourse, Chepstow, Monmouthshire, NP16 6BE or e-mail fmorgan@chepstow-racecourse.co.uk

BRIAN LEE

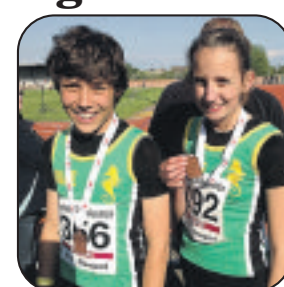
Young siblings shine!

BROTHER and sister Izzy and Sam have been training with Barry Harriers since they were seven years old and the hard work and commitment has paid off recently.

After a very successful and hard cross country season, both children have started the athletic track season in style - representing Westbourne in Penarth in the County School Championships and running in the youth development league, along with the Arthur Llewellyn League, means they haven't had a weekend to rest in a while!

Both have shown commitment and determination - Izzy has switched from 800m to 1500m this season and also running the 300m where, even as a long distance runner she has won regional medals in middle sprints!

Not letting his sister take all the



glory, Sam has gone from strength to strength this season - even having the disadvantage of being the younger of the under-15 age group, this hasn't stopped Sam winning the 1500m and also gaining regional medals and county status!

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GEM sport

Brynhill's lady golfers raise funds for Velindre



Ruth Lane.



Sue Griffiths.



Elaine Worrall.



Linda Gershenson (right) with the lady captain, Julie Harkin.

BRYNHILL Ladies Golf charity coffee morning was a very successful event.

Brilliant sunshine enabled more than 50 golfing ladies to participate in the coffee morning competition. As usual, Val Weir and June Sanderson confidently manned the entries desk. Mr Glyn Sheppard was the starter on the first tee.

Results
HOME: Winner, Shirley Lewis; second, Sue Holland; third, Maria Gentile.

Away: Winner, Mrs Ruth Lane (St Mary Hill); second, Mrs Sue Griffiths (Newport); third, Mrs Elaine Worrall (St Mary Hill).

The winner in guessing how many tee pegs were in the jar was Liz Taylor. Pick a golf item winner was Linda Gershenson, who won a beautiful golf hamper full of golfing items.

Also, there was the anti-tear up winner,

Helena Coombes. Funds were raised from the obligatory raffle, cake stall, bric-a-brac and bottle stalls.

The ladies' captain, Julie Harkin and her committee and all Brynhill ladies would like to express their thanks to visitors who came from Creigiau, St Athan, Newport, St Mary Hill, Glamorganshire and Cottrell Park for supporting this event. We hope that they will return to play in the Brynhill Ladies Open on July 6.

Thanks to the participants, the event raised in excess of £400 for the ladies captain's charity, Velindre Hospital.

Congratulations to Julie, the ladies captain, for organising the event along with her committee.

In the last press report, Helena Coombes and Chris Hopkins (not Chris Jones) were runners-up in the Junior Gold Cup.

AP

Sully Ladies football issue player appeal

SULLY LADIES FC have had a pretty successful season considering this was their first season in the women's Welsh League, finishing fifth.

However, for this team to improve, they are looking for new players from 16-years-old to make the team stronger. They are also currently looking for a coach/coaches, ideally someone who has retired but would like to stay actively involved in a football team and take on a challenge.

If you fit the bill, whether coach or player, contact Sarah George on 07773997117.

Sun shines for Barry Athletic - BUT THE CRICKET DOESN'T!

WAITING on a sunny day all season, Barry Athletic certainly had that as they travelled to Croesyceliog for an important league match.

Stand-in skipper Gavin White lost the toss and the home side had no hesitation in batting first. It was a decision that nearly backfired for Croesys, as Steve Jones and Steve Provis, who was having his first bowl of the season, kept things tight.

Jones was superb as he bowled bowled his 10 overs for just 15 runs, while Provis performed admirably taking two wickets for 42, including a cracking in-swing with his last ball.

Miles who came in for the home side, started patiently but it was the introduction of the change bowlers that swung the game slightly to the home side's advantage.

Being severely savage to anything pitched short,

Miles cut loose, peppering the west-bound traffic with sixes. Dropped on 10, he went on to be the mainstay of the home sides innings, including a partnership of 99 for the 7th wicket with Pheasant, who proved game with a roasting 34.

Miles was out eventually for 108 off 91 balls, including 13 fours and 6 sixes, as Shae Ellis, Aaron Smith and Dafydd Frost gained some consolation with some wickets and Nathan Baker stopped the flow of runs with 1-26 off his 10 overs, as the Stags battled back to reduce the home side to 240-9 off their allotted 50 overs.

Barry's innings got off to a steady start but openers White and Ellis fell cheaply, and it was up to Baker and Provis to rebuild the innings.

They put on 51 for the 3rd wicket but Provis (19) played the ball on to his stumps to end the partnership.

Little cameos from Smith (19) and Henry Dawson (26) helped Baker reach 48, but he was caught on the boundary and although Evans helped the cause with 21 wickets, Barry limped to 167 all out, with Wakefield and R.Jones picking up three wickets apiece.

The following day, Barry played hosts to Premier league side Newport in the second round of the Welsh Cup.

Barry won the toss and batted first and opening pair White and Ellis were soon back in the hutch, but Barry's major batsmen, Nathan Baker and Rhett Jones, showed the Newport bowlers no mercy as they took full control with an out-

standing 3rd wicket partnership of 170.

Baker was the first to 50 off 46 balls with Jones following suit off 54 balls, but with the score on 200 Jones was out for 67 off 68 balls including 7 fours.

Ian Gadd joined Baker at the crease and rotated the strike well to allow Baker to reach his century off 92 balls, before Gadd fell for 16. Baker finished the innings not out 111, which included 8 fours and 3 sixes in Barry's total of 246-4 off 40 overs.

Newport's innings started well as Collins and Thomas waited for any bad balls. Steve Jones and Peter Hellyar picked up a wicket apiece as Newport reached 76-2 off 16 overs, which was up with the desired run-rate.

Baker and Ellis then came on with the spin pair also amongst the wickets as Newport seemed in control at 155-4, but a crazy 23 minutes gave Barry the advantage as Aaron Smith, with a wicket in his first over, and then a stumbling catch by Usswald, was followed by a Steve Jones run-out and then Martyn Baker joined the party with a wicket as Newport collapsed to 195-8.

Millchipp tried in vain to get Newport over the line but was smartly caught by Ashley Baker for 40 as Barry ran out winners by 24 runs. It was an excellent performance by all involved and Barry now await a visit to local rivals Penarth in the next round.

AB

Cadoxton bowls club round-up

ON May 29 Cadoxton played Penarth in the Munro Cup.

The start of the Munro Cup game at Penarth was held up for two reasons. Don Kuhnell turned up with no bowls, but was able to borrow a set to play with.

The other reason was that David Fanning came on as substitute on Howard Craven's rink after a Cadoxton player dropped out after playing just one ball in the trial ends.

Two new bowlers and a second year player made up Don's rink. They all gave a good account of themselves, and always had plenty of bowls in the head.

However, Clive Williams, the third on the opposing rink, had an outstanding game, by continually making shot in amongst these close bowls of Cadoxton's.

Derek Brook almost skipped a winning rink.

They led from start until a '3' on the final end took away the victory.

Howard Craven's rink took part in a close game. After 7 ends, with both sides scoring a '4' there was just one shot difference.

There was still one shot between them after 13 ends, and another '4' each.

Four of the last five ends went in favour of the visitors for the only win. The four skipped by Len Davies only managed to score on six ends

and were well beaten. G Powell, L Adams, J Sugden, D Brook - 15; G Rosser, M England, R Maggs, R Greenslade - 17.

K McMahon, D Fanning, G Davies, H Craven - 21; P Davies, G Thomas, R Jones, R Lewis - 16.

P Swannick, J Stacey, K Cowling, D Kuhnell - 9; B Lansley, N Thomas, C Williams, D Clements - 15.

S Clements, M Curtis, J Davies, L Davies - 8; T Buckingham, P Davidge, H Trow, D Daley - 29.

Final Score: 53 - 77. Cadoxton had a bye in the first week of the ML and arranged a friendly at Belle Vue.

There were vagaries with the green, which made it difficult to play on, but on the best day of the 'summer' an amiable afternoon was enjoyed by both teams.

Len Davies had a good start on his rink, reaching 7-1.

A bad period included a '5' and '4' against leaving them trailing, but a '5' scored after a tea break brought the scores level.

Another '5' against put them back in trouble only for a scored '4' to leave them just one behind. After the final end the scores were tied. Howard Craven's rink had a reasonable start but at the break the scores were tied.

With three ends left, the scores were still tied, but the advantage fell to the home side at the fin-

ish. The tea break did no favours for Graham Brown's rink, for they held a healthy advantage at the time, but fell away to lose with the opposing skip refusing to allow good heads to count with accurate driving bowls.

Don Kuhnell had a '5' early in the game, on his rink to build a commanding lead, but then hit a lean spell without scoring for five ends, which left them 3 shots down at the tea interval.

A '5' each was scored after the stoppage, followed by three '3's to again take a commanding lead.

The home side once again made an effort to claw their way back, but did not make it.

P Ellis, L Adams, K Chedgoy, G Brown - 12; G Thomas, R Paul, J Allen, M Thomas - 25.

H Hellyar, D Hammond, D Brook, D Kuhnell - 25; P Paterson, G Ford, T Ford, L Aubrey - 22.

D Tuck, T Bishop, J Davies, L Davies - 22; P Fitzjohn, A Stockwell, R Peterson, D Purser - 22.

R Cole, W Vaughan, W Eadie, H Craven - 16; B Bagnell, J Charles, L Fowler, B Morgan - 18.

Final score: 75 - 83.

Cadoxton 'A' opened their ML6 season with a home game against Llantwit Major 'A' and failed to get any success from three of the rinks.

The final score was: 75 - 83.

DK

Millwood progress in league... but suffer in Munro Cup

THE latest Millwood bowling results for June 8 are:

Millwood vs St Joseph's (League Div 3, home):

Rink 2: Millwood: T Mullins, J Howells, M Jodrell, R Jones (skip) - 26; St Josephs: J Parsons, R Huish, M Caswell, B O'Keefe - 15.

Rink 3: Millwood: K Mills, B Davies, C James, P Taylor (skip) - 24; St Josephs: K Borrietti, A Whelan, B Morrissey, M Harmon - 14.

Rink 4: Millwood: B Webb, J Slea, A Bumford, B Crockford (skip) - 16; St Josephs: K Barry, J Fitzgerald, W George, D Owen - 19.

Rink 5: Millwood: A Evans, G Stone, K Davies, A Hatcher (skip) - 28; St Josephs: A Cawley, T Tumelty, N O'Donnell, M Todd - 22.

Match Result - Millwood 94, St Josephs - 70.

This was the first League Division 3 game played and resulted in a win for the home side by a margin of 24 shots, by winning on 3 of the 4 rinks, giving Millwood a total 12 - 2 points.

After a very enjoyable game, played in the sunshine, both teams enjoyed the usual drinks and refreshments in the clubhouse.

In the Munro Cup Millwood were away to Barry Central.

Rink 2: Millwood: J Marks, A Norris, D Gorrige, B Webb (skip) - 11; Barry Central: K Ford, A Kennedy, T Kaged, D Hutchins (skip) - 11.

Rink 3: Millwood: P Childs, V O'Leary, A Evans, B Hayman (skip) - 9; Barry Central: C Ditchburn, D Smith, K Tanner, J Wathes (skip) - 18.

Rink 4: Millwood: A Anniss, B Howcroft, J Howells, A Bumford (skip) - 16; Barry Central: L Tanner, C Willacott, G Williams, I King (skip) - 25.

Rink 5: Millwood: S Hopkins, R Thomas, J Slea, B Crockford (skip) - 16; Barry Central: G Young, -----, H Spencer, J Jones (skip) - 12.

Match Result - Millwood 52, Barry Central 66.

Barry Central were victors in this Munro Cup game by a margin of 14 shots.

On June 12, the team faced Penarth Belle Vue in a Munro Cup fixture and came away 82-48 winners; their good form continued on June 15 when they then faced Rumney away and earned a 80-74 win, while the A team defeated Rumney's A team 96-69.

Barrivale bridge club news

THE latest results from Barrivale, June 11:

Point a Board teams winners were Jane Brook, Ken Hannah, Kay Dyer, Denis Mottram.

The recent club championship pairs was won by Noelle Bond and Denis Mottram.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale, if you would like to join us ring 01446 418380 or 01446 733425 or call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.

MB